

Tough reform aims to make criminals pay

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent. The Government aims to hit the pockets of criminals and improve compensation for victims in proposals published yesterday...

Hospital closures due to the cold

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent. Twenty-nine large hospitals in Greater London and others in the Home Counties have halted non-urgent admissions...



The Queen pool in lace at a Government House party in yesterday's heat-stricken Melbourne. Report, page 9.

City fears wave of bankruptcies as tin talks fail

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent. There were fears of widespread bankruptcies in the City of London last night after talks to end the four-month-old tin crisis collapsed unexpectedly...

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More and more take The Times

More people in the ABC1 socio-economic group - opinion-formers and those with significant purchasing power - are switching to The Times in preference to any other national newspaper...

Labour attacks 'window dressing'

By Richard Evans. Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Home Secretary, criticized the Government's criminal justice 'White Paper' published yesterday as a piece of window dressing...

Congress sets seal on Gorbachov era

From Christopher Walker, Moscow. Sweeping changes in the composition of the top bodies that will run the Soviet Union for the next five years were approved yesterday...

Yurchenko 'executed'

Washington - Mr Vitaly Yurchenko, the Soviet defector who returned home, was reported yesterday to have been executed by firing squad...

Tory mood on BL bids favours British factor

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent. The Cabinet committee on British Leyland met for an hour yesterday to consider a preliminary report on bids for parts of the company...

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio daily competition prize produced no winner again yesterday so today there is £6,000 to be won. Portfolio list, page 22...

Favourite out

Burrough Hill Lad, winner of the 1984 Cheltenham Gold Cup and favourite for this year's event, is out of the race. Page 28

Split fuels dispute over BBC funding

David Hewson, Arts Correspondent. The Government's attempt to produce a new formula for funding the BBC is in difficulties because of a growing division among members of the committee...

Rate rebels face huge bills

By Hugh Clayton. Rates defiance could cost rebel Lambeth and Liverpool councillors millions of pounds, Mr John Banham, controller of audit with the Audit Commission said yesterday...

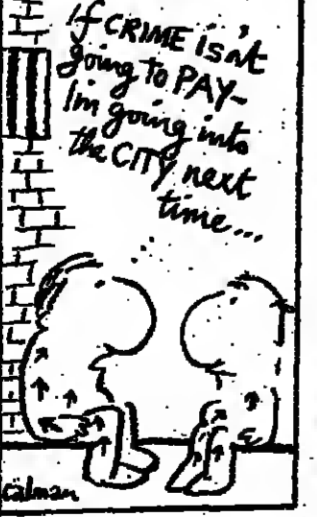
Two held in Palme case

Copenhagen - Two men "of South European appearance", arrested by Danish police yesterday at the port of Esbo, are believed to be connected with the murder of Olof Palme...

Tory rebellion

The Government was defeated in a Commons committee on the Financial Services Bill when a rebel Conservative amendment was passed to put the Securities and Investment Board, the City's new regulatory body, on a full statutory footing...

Advertisement for Famous Grouse Scotch Whisky, featuring a bottle and a glass of whisky with a pheasant logo.



Household policies head list of bogus claims for insurance

By Lawrence Lever

Fraudulent insurance claims are increasing, particularly in household policies, according to the insurance ombudsman. Mr James Haswell, in his report for 1985 published yesterday, said: "There is increasing evidence of fraudulent claims."

India call to send Sikh back

India has asked Britain to deport Mr Jaswant Singh Thekedar, a Sikh living in Southall, west London, and wanted by New Delhi for alleged crimes.

Spain to fight for Goya painting

The Spanish Embassy is to fight for the recovery of Goya's masterpiece, "La Marquesa de Santa Cruz", in the British High Court.



Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, with Mrs VI Price, of Ipswich, Suffolk, at Central Hall, Westminster, yesterday when he chaired the National Pensioners' Convention.

Pensions record defended

Mrs Margaret Thatcher last night defended the Government's record on pensions in the Commons before meeting leaders of the National Pensioners' Convention and rejecting their demands, which she told MPs would cost at least £20,000 million.

Home sale delay in training

By Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

People who want to become licensed conveyancers through the Government's new legislation ending the solicitors' monopoly of house transfer work may have to wait a little longer because the required training programme has not yet been established.

Dock plan opposition attacked

By George Hill

A spirited attack on opponents of the Canary Wharf development scheme in the London docklands was made yesterday by Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party.

Walker is out of No 10 race

By Anthony Bervis

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, last night ruled himself out of any long-term challenge for the Conservative leadership.

Opponents heartened by shops Bill delay

By Our Political Reporter

Conservative opponents of Sunday trading were heartened yesterday by the Government's decision to delay the second reading of the shops Bill until after the Easter recess.

Suicidal thoughts on Merseyside

From Peter Davenport Liverpool

The human cost of the failed legal battle by Liverpool's 48 Labour councillors against surcharge and disqualification began to sink in yesterday as they debated whether to fight on with a further appeal.

Auditor predicts huge bills for rate rebels

Continued from page 1
face a mounting spiral of bills for losses and of costs of fighting them in court.

Tricksters left kind priest deep in debt

A kindly priest who gave away thousands of pounds from church funds fell victim to tricksters who heard of his generosity, a court was told yesterday.

Airport-style coach station recommended

A coach station in central London with the atmosphere of an airport terminal was recommended in a report to London Regional Transport yesterday. The possible sites are at King's Cross, Paddington and White City.

Lawyers among the critics

Continued from page 1

limited range of serious cases, we are shaking the very foundations of the English legal system."

Union claim on fall in papers' sales denied

By Alan Hamilton

Unions in dispute with Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International claimed in a newsletter yesterday that the company's four titles printed at the new plant at Wapping had fallen since the move.

75% OFF RRP LAST FEW WEEKS Starting from under £25 For Persian Rugs KASHMIR BOKHARA SIZE 12' x 9' £750 PERSIAN ISPHAN SIZE 5'6" x 3'6" £1100 PURE SILK TURKISH HERKEY SIZE 5'6" x 3'6" £1250 15000 PIECES TO CLEAR Great opportunity for Bargain Hunters MAYFAIR CARPET GALLERY, 8 OLD BOND STREET, LONDON W1. Offers welcome

Restrictive could en sharks.

Search for...

ACCOUNTS MAY

Trains move to

PARLIAMENT MARCH 6 1986

Clash on pensions • Scottish teachers • Farming changes

PM rejects call for big pension rise

PM'S QUESTIONS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said at a question time in the Commons that she was not prepared to return to the inflationary policies of the last Labour Government.

She was urged by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, to "have the decency" to match that Government's record on pension increases.

protect pensioners and their savings and she should not be reflected from sticking to that course as the way of giving them honest money.

Mr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, said he did not learn the lessons of the last couple of months - the way many pensioners did freeze in the very cold spell and heating allowances were shown to be inadequate.

Still not time to join

It was not an appropriate moment to join the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons.

regularly on the basis that it is time to do so, she was asked when the pound bought 3.70 Deutschmarks and it would now buy about 3.20.

Preston firm gets chance to make bid

LEYLAND

Lancashire Enterprises Ltd is to have a meeting with merchant bankers Hill Samuel to explore further the nature of their proposal to make a bid for part of the British Leyland operations.

Mr Stanley Thorne (Preston, Lab) who put a private notice question to the minister on the issue, complained that Channon had misled the House the previous day.

Lighthouse dues to rise

United Kingdom light dues, for the maintenance of lighthouses, are to be increased by 3 per cent in 1986-87, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in a written Commons reply.

Inquiry ordered into Scottish teachers' dispute

EDUCATION

An independent committee of inquiry will be set up in an effort to break the deadlock in the 19-month-old teachers' dispute to service the Scottish education system.

He expected the teachers' unions to call off their industrial action immediately and hoped teachers and employers would agree on a pay settlement in the normal way while awaiting the committee's findings.

Mr Riffkind said the Scottish public would regard it as unthinkable that while the inquiry was going on, the teachers took strike action, boycotted schools or took other actions.

Mr Riffkind said the inquiry could take evidence from where it deemed appropriate. People would be appointed to the inquiry for the individual contribution they could make, rather than any representative quality.

Farmers facing change in use of land

FARMING

While further measures clearly need to be taken within the EEC to cut back production of commodities in surplus, this was seen as leading to change in the existing pattern of land use in agriculture and forestry.

Mr Jopling: There is a great opportunity, and a need, for us to consider the opportunities for growing more trees. I hope Mr Channon has seen the consultative document we have put out about encouraging more farm woodlands.

Minister sees progress in reform of CAP

AGRICULTURE

Asked in the Commons by what date he anticipated that the reforms he sought in the EEC common agricultural policy would be implemented, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said there had been progress in agreeing the financial guideline, milk quotas and measures for the wine sector.

Mr Jopling: He is a well known merchant of doom and gloom. Since the United Kingdom joined the Community productivity per person in agriculture has fallen over 70 per cent, the volume of output by more than 18 per cent, and the volume of exports of agricultural products, food and drink by more than 25 per cent.

Mr Jopling: I have said on many occasions that there are elements in the current price proposals which are seriously discriminatory against the interests of this country. I told the Council of Ministers only last week that some of these proposals were unacceptable.

Mr Jopling: The Commission and Council are committed to the financial guideline. It will be an important objective to see that it is held to in the coming year.

Ruling on councillors supported

The decision taken by the High Court yesterday on the Labour councillors of Lambeth and Liverpool was a further attack on local democracy, and it should be Mrs Thatcher and her Government before the courts.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Backbench motion on employment rights.

Tough line against Spanish fishermen

PROTECTION

There would be no let-up in the drive against illegal fishing by Spanish vessels in British waters, Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said during Commons questions.

Mr Gummer said that was an important point. It had to be part of the talks. The whole EEC fishing industry, throughout Europe, will have to bear the burden of dealing with surpluses fairly (he said). It should not fall unfairly on farmers in Britain compared with their neighbours in Europe.

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Easter recess

The Commons will rise for the Easter adjournment on March 27 and return on April 8.

Botha move welcomed by Thatcher

The lifting of the state of emergency in South Africa by President Botha was warmly welcomed in the Commons by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister.

Mr Jopling: The Commission and Council are committed to the financial guideline. It will be an important objective to see that it is held to in the coming year.

A suitable debate for a Sunday

A suggestion that MPs should meet at 9.30 am on a Sunday to consider the security of the Shops Bill on Sunday opening was greeted with laughter in the Commons.

Animal mind tests under scrutiny

The machinery of the new Bill to protect animals in scientific experiments will be used to look more closely at their use in behavioural tests, according to Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office.

Cruise land sale is off

A plot of land owned by the Church of England next to the cruise missile base at Moleworth in Cambridgeshire is not to be sold.

Doctors are given warning on abetting state torture

The British Medical Association said yesterday that it had received incontrovertible evidence that doctors in many countries are involved in planning and assisting in torture.

Princess launches laser cure

Princess Anne yesterday officially launched Britain's most powerful machine in the fight against cancer.

Milk theft girl is freed

A girl who spent 13 days in Holloway prison after she admitted stealing a bottle of milk was granted a conditional discharge by Dover magistrates yesterday.

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Criminal Justice White Paper: Bill to ensure crime does not pay

Tough new powers to strengthen fight against crime planned

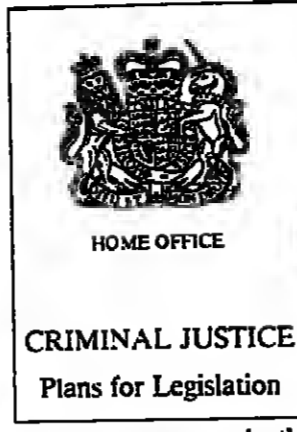
Reports by Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Tough new measures to strengthen the powers of the courts to combat crime and bring offenders to justice were published by the Government yesterday (thurs) in a White Paper which forms a main plank of its law and order policy. The proposals, which include increased maximum sentences, further steps to seize criminals' assets, changes to the system of jury trial, better compensation for victims of crime and reforms to the extradition law will be a high priority for legislation. The Government has already extended police powers and resources together with safeguards for individuals in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. Bills are before Parliament on drug trafficking and public order and there will soon be a new crown prosecution service. The next step will be a Criminal Justice Bill to overhaul the powers and procedures of the courts as outlined in the White Paper, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said yesterday. Those were the "essential underpinning of the fight against crime."

The main measures outlined in the paper, Criminal Justice: Plans for Legislation, fall into four categories: sentencing and the powers of the court, victims of crime, procedural changes and extradition. Leader, page 13



Mr Douglas Hurd, who announced the measures in the White Paper



THE MAIN PROPOSALS

- Life sentences for carrying firearms in furtherance of crime.
- More powers for courts to confiscate criminals' assets.
- Tougher powers for courts to order offenders to compensate victims.
- Changes to the jury system including abolition of jury trial for some offences.
- Proposals to abolish or curb defence right of challenge and to increase jurors' age limit.
- Statutory backing for sentencing guidelines from Court of Appeal.
- Pledge for legislation on fraud trials proposals.
- Reforms in extradition law.
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Board on statutory backing.

Detention centre sentences

The Government proposes a power for those with short youth custody sentences to be held in detention centres, which at present are under-used for large parts of the year. This will help overcrowding in prisons and is consistent with the principle that short custodial sentences should be served in the detention centres, rather than in youth custody regimes (formerly Borstal). Some offenders receiving youth custody sentences of between four and six months have only short periods to serve, after time spent on remand, and remission, have been knocked off. But at present there is no alternative to their being held other than in youth custody regimes, even while detention centres are under-used.

At the same time, it plans to bring in stronger sanctions, including custody, for juvenile offenders in breach of supervision orders which have been imposed by the court as an alternative to custody. It wants also to restore to the courts a specific power to include in a supervision order a requirement that the juvenile attend school.

Three changes to jury challenge

The Government has put forward three proposals to meet public concern about alleged abuse of the defendant's right to challenge jurors. They are: ● Abolition of the challenge without reason (peremptory challenge); ● A cut in the number of such challenges allowed from three to one or two; ● A special limit in multi-defendant cases.

It is also suggesting, and inviting comment, on the proposal that the upper age limit for potential jurors be increased from 65 to 70, on the basis that people aged between 65 and 70 would be eligible to serve as jurors but would not have to do so. This would reflect the fact that people now live longer and are healthier when they retire. It would also meet concern that the present pool of jurors should be widened to include more of the older age group, which amounts to some nine million adults. The peremptory challenge, the White Paper says, is available for use by the defence in whatever ways will best serve its interests. Some times it may be used to change the make-up of a jury in terms

of age, sex or race in a way thought to increase the chance of a fair hearing. "But it is also capable of use, and these are the cases which have given rise to concern, as a means of getting rid of jurors, whose mere appearance is thought to indicate a degree of insight or respect for the law which is inimical to the interests of the defence. This is contrary to the interests of justice as well as offensive to the individual juror," it says. Outright abolition of the challenge has been recommended by the recent Roskill Committee on fraud trials. The second option for a cut in the number of challenges allowed would reduce the chances for the defendant to block a majority verdict by simply substituting other jurors, while still allowing objections to one or two jurors. The third option, for a limit on multi-defendant cases, would address the problem "over which there is most acute concern" because of the possible pooling of challenges, but would curtail each individual defendant's right and, therefore, be less apt where such pooling did not occur.

Options on court guidance

The Government intends to strengthen the role of the Court of Appeal in giving public guidance on sentencing policy, as in the court's recent guideline judgement on rape. It is putting forward three proposals for debate. The options are: ● Reviving its original, much-criticized proposal to enable the court to refer over-lenient sentences to the Court of Appeal for an opinion; ● Giving that proposal "teeth" so that the Court of Appeal would have power to increase a sentence; ● Giving statutory backing to the Judicial Studies Board's role in publishing the Court of Appeal's guidelines. These would then be put out as a guide for sentencers and the public.

The White Paper says that some arrangement is needed so that issues raised by over-lenient sentences can be considered at a "higher judicial level".

Powers to confiscate widened

Measures to strengthen the courts' powers to deprive convicted offenders of the proceeds of crimes in connection with drug-trafficking offences, now going through Parliament, are to be extended to other crimes. These powers include a requirement on the Crown court to confiscate proceeds from drug-trafficking, power for the High Court to "freeze" assets of those suspected of drug-trafficking and of third parties in receipt of assets; provision for confiscation orders to be enforced in the High Court, without waiting for the offender to default; and stiffer custodial penalties for wilful default. The Government intends to extend courts' powers to order forfeiture of property used in connection with crime. The White Paper also makes clear that the Government has rejected an original proposal to introduce a sentence of day or weekend imprisonment.

Reforms to ease return of fugitives

Reforms in the law of extradition to make it easier for countries to get back their fugitive offenders from the United Kingdom are proposed. Such a reform will represent a contribution to the fight against international crime. It is hoped as a result the United Kingdom can become a party to the European Convention on Extradition. The main proposal is the abolition of the prima facie rule which obliges the requesting state to establish a case against the fugitive, according to the English rules of evidence. Other measures are to allow extradited offenders to face further charges with the Government's consent; to provide for re-extradition if the Government consents; and to define extraditable offences as at least 12 months' imprisonment, including fiscal offences.

Many of the procedural reforms recommended to the Roskill Committee on fraud trials are to be implemented in the Bill. They include: revision of the law of evidence to allow more documents to "speak for themselves"; more formal preparatory hearings to identify the issues for trial; and the abolition of jury trial in complex fraud cases.

The Government proposes that the maximum penalty for certain offences involving carrying firearms in the furtherance of crime under the Firearms Act 1968 should be increased from 14 years to life imprisonment. These proposed increases are intended to demonstrate emphatically that the carrying of firearms by criminals, whether or not they are used, is regarded by society as an offence of the highest possible gravity. At the same time it proposes to increase the maximum penalty for certain offences of corruption from two to seven years, in line with the recommendations of the Salmon Commission report on standards of conduct in public life, published in 1976.

At present the offences, under the Public Bodies (Corrupt Practices) Act 1889 and the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906, only carry a maximum of seven years' imprisonment if they concern receiving or offering bribes for public contracts. But, the White Paper says, other forms of corruption can be equally serious and the two years' maximum is inadequate in cases of serious breaches of trust. The maximum prison sentences available for the main criminal offences need to be kept under constant review. Private member's bills with government support have increased sentences in two other areas where change was needed and there are now maximum sentences of life imprisonment for rape, ten years for indecent assault, and life imprisonment for trafficking in hard drugs. But the Government believes that carrying firearms to furtherance of crime and corruption now warrant an increase also. Thirdly, it intends to strengthen maximum penalties by extending the arrangements for inflation-proofing of fines.

Moves to reduce pressure of work on crown court

Abolition of the right to trial by jury is proposed for certain offences, in a separate consultative document issued with the White Paper, in an effort to cut the increasing pressure of work on the crown court. It recommends that this should apply to common assault, driving while disqualified and taking a motor vehicle without the owner's consent. More serious offences of assault and theft of vehicles would still be triable in the crown court.

The paper, *Distribution of Court Business*, also invites comment on a more qualified, but nonetheless controversial, proposal for minor cases of theft to be tried in the magistrates court, irrespective of the small value of the stolen property, unless the offence seems unusually serious.

The courts, it says, should have adequate powers to deal with offences but it is also important that offences which are not among the most serious, and which can be adequately dealt with by the magistrates, do not unnecessarily clog up the crown court.

In spite of allocating more resources to the crown court, such as increasing the number of judges, it has "proved extremely difficult to avoid significant increases in waiting times". The 1984 average was 14.3 weeks; and only 40 per cent of defendants were dealt with in less than eight weeks.

The idea of seriousness is taken to reflect the "inherent gravity of the misconduct as perceived by society, not according to the position of the individual". It therefore invites comment on its proposal to repeal existing offences of common assault and to bring in a new summary offence with maximum penalties of six months' imprisonment and/or £2,000 fine.

Life for carrying firearms

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RESEARCH

For seven and a half decades, Hitachi has conducted research with single-minded devotion. As one of the world's foremost operators of independent research facilities, Hitachi's original technologies have made the company an innovator of electrical and electronics products. Most recently Hitachi opened its 21st R&D center, the Advanced Research Laboratory. Its purpose: To develop long-range projects for applications in the 21st century and to carry on the Hitachi tradition of pioneering research in biotechnology, material science, software science, and other technologies upon which progress depends.

The results are in use all around you

Hitachi laser research has allowed high-density recording of business data in optical disk filing systems. Complex manufacturing operations have been automated thanks to advances in robotics, creating intelligent machines with sophisticated sensors to help them see and handle work pieces. New audio/video systems make use of Hitachi's digital technology for ultrahigh-fidelity sound and high-definition television pictures.

Each year, Hitachi devotes some \$1 billion to research. Our efforts to further improve ad-

vanced technology involve the talents of 16,000 R&D personnel. And our desire to share the benefits of new knowledge with others has made available over 35,000 patents for licensing worldwide.

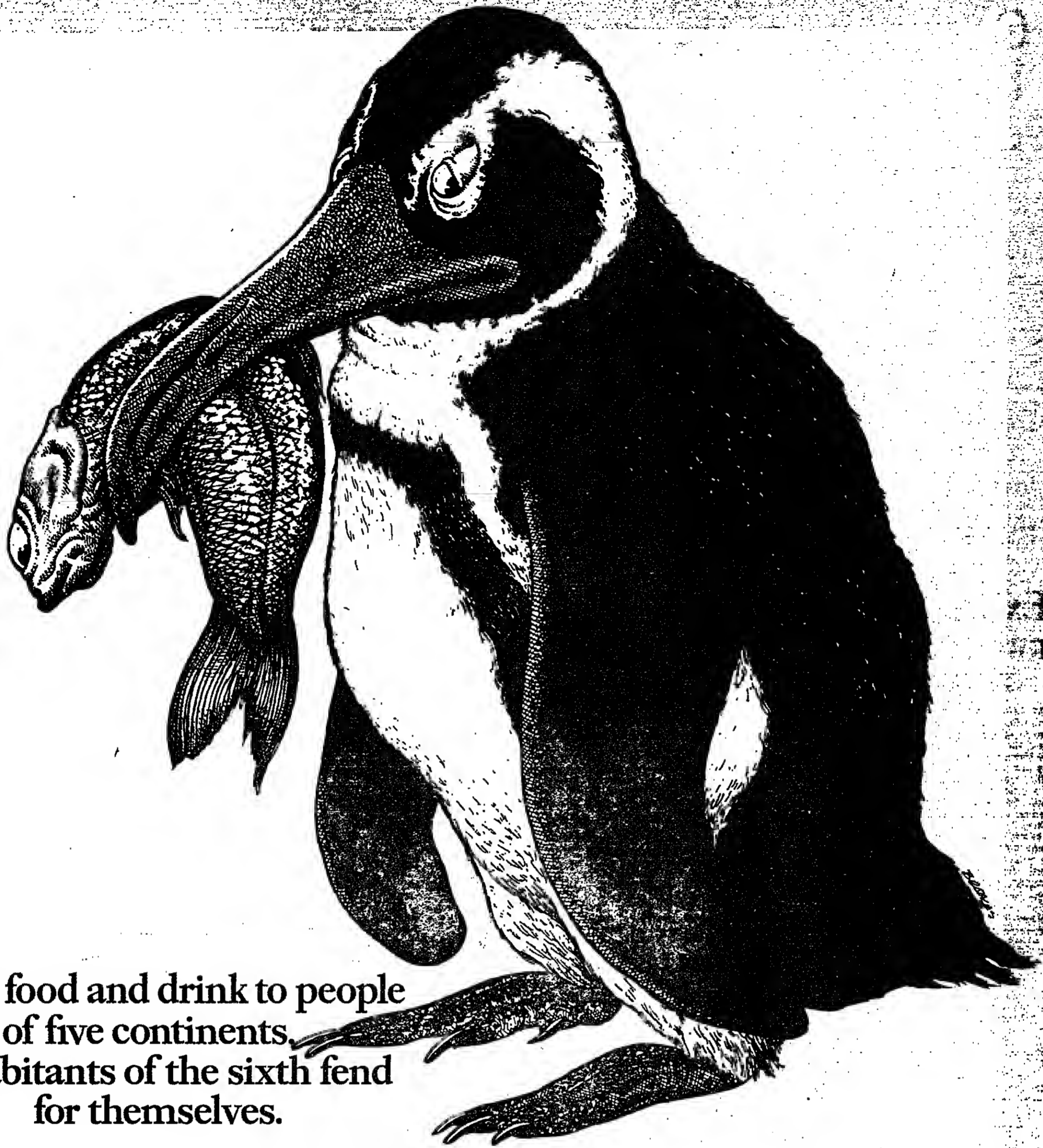
The best of worlds is yet to come

Our vision of the future includes satellite networks employing laser telecommunications and remote sensing systems to link every corner of the globe and eventually the planets. We see tomorrow's society served by energy-generating fusion reactors, 300-mph trains floating above the ground on superconductive magnetic fields, 3-D color scanners for medical diagnosis and simulation of operations—and much, much more.

We'd like you to share in the benefits of our scientific research, covering the next generation of microchips, new ceramics, information processing systems, and other high-tech innovations. For improved business efficiency. For a higher quality of life. Two goals we've pursued for 75 years as part of our commitment to a better world through electronics.

WE BELIEVE RESEARCH IS THE LEADING EDGE OF PROGRESS

HITACHI



**We're food and drink to people
of five continents.
Inhabitants of the sixth fend
for themselves.**

Primitive though they are, most of the population of Antarctica know exactly where their last meal came from.

Which is something that can't be said of the people of the more advanced countries of the world.

In the States they think Baskin-Robbins, one of the world's biggest ice cream chains, is as American as Apple Pie. Which is hardly surprising as it's run entirely by Americans.

But it's owned by Allied-Lyons. A British company.

Clogs, windmills, tulips, advocaat, what could be more Dutch?

The advocaat. Warninks, Holland's biggest producer of advocaat is British owned and it's part of Allied-Lyons.

All over the world people have got into the habit of drinking sherry before, during or after a meal. Hardly the thing to do, eh what?

But we don't mind. The chances are they're drinking Harveys, the world's biggest selling sherry, once again from Allied-Lyons.

It's much the same with port.

In over 50 countries they don't know, or care, which way to pass the port. But they do know which port to pass. It's Cockburn's.

We could go on.

Allied-Lyons have over 200 brands, many of which are household names in countries the world over. But we're not just sitting back counting the profits, considerable though they are.

During 1985 we invested massively in the business and launched well over one hundred new products worldwide.

Last year we made record pre-tax profits of £219 million and achieved £945 million worth of business overseas, without any help from our flippered friends down there in Antarctica.

Allied-Lyons
GOING ON GROWING

Gorbac
basis fe

Ex-fitter ma
number thro

BOOK
FAIR

Decision day at the Kremlin

Gorbachev builds a solid basis for reform policies

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The crucial 27th Congress of the Communist Party ended yesterday exactly as it had begun nine days earlier...



Further extending the Party's role in foreign policy-making and ensuring that he places his own mark on its implementation...

Mr Gorbachev said, showing no signs of tiredness after the hectic period of public and private politicking...

The high-flyer

Ex-fitter may win number three slot

From Our Own Correspondent Moscow

Mr Lev Zaikov, aged 62, the former fitter and shop foreman who leap-frogged his way into one of the leading positions in the Kremlin hierarchy yesterday...

Highly respected in his home city of Leningrad, where he took over control of the party from the disgraced Grigory Romanov...

Mr Zaikov, groomed for top economic job, ground much favoured by Mr Gorbachev...



Mr Zaikov, groomed for top economic job.

Mr Zaikov's background parallels that of other leading figures promoted under Mr Gorbachev...

Tall and grey-haired, with the type of industrial background much favoured by Mr Gorbachev...

Mr Zaikov, groomed for top economic job, ground much favoured by Mr Gorbachev...

After only a brief tenure as Leningrad party chief, he was first promoted to the secretariat at last July...

Mr Zaikov's background parallels that of other leading figures promoted under Mr Gorbachev...

THE NEW POLITBURO

Mikhail Gorbachev, 55, elected October 1980, Chairman of the Politburo...

Yegor Ligachov, 65, elected April 1985, Kremlin's Number 2...

Bolshevism were no accident... one envoy said yesterday. "This Congress has left no doubt that the drive is now on to make the Communist system work..."

At one stage he rebuked angrily the head of the Soviet motion picture worker's union for having failed to abandon old habits...

On a similar tack, the celebration of his 55th birthday on Sunday passed without official celebration...

The new 15-year economic plan and the new Party rules will now be carried back by the delegates to the 15 republics of the Soviet Union...

Leading article, page 13

The diplomatic giant

Moscow's eyes in Washington

From Michael Binyon, Washington

With the departure of Anatoly Dobrynin, Washington is losing a giant of the diplomatic scene here...

A jovial, burly man he has dealt with every American President since Kennedy...

Mr Dobrynin, aged 67, and dean of the world's biggest diplomatic corps, became as much a fixture of Soviet foreign policy as his long-time boss, Mr Andrei Gromyko...

However, Mr Dobrynin's knowledge of the US political system and congressmen is unrivalled...



Peking police clean-up: an anti-grime squad of Chinese police giving traffic barriers a wash and brush-up in an officially sponsored spring-cleaning campaign in the capital.

Waldheim gets press backing

From Richard Bassett Vienna

Spokesmen for the Austrian Justice Ministry and Foreign Ministry denied yesterday making available any documents to the New York Times...

The New York Times reported earlier this week that the documents obtained from Waldheim had been decryderated for service under fire...

The denials were widely supported by the Austrian press yesterday. The media are, almost without exception, backing Dr Waldheim...

Nothing to do with transportation of Jews proclaimed a banner headline in the Vienna daily Kurier...

An interview given by Herr Johann Anif, a war artist, who served with Dr Waldheim in the Balkans, defended his war record and denounced allegations...

Even the Socialist Party newspaper Arbeiter Zeitung acknowledged that while a man who had enrolled in the SA, Hitler's paramilitary brownshirts, was by no means ideal for the post of Austria's President...

The image of a frail old politician hounded by American journalists and television crews has now emerged in the Austrian media...

Fate of hostage worries Paris

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A clearly worried M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, said yesterday he had received no confirmation of a claim that Islamic Jihad...

The claim was made in a three-page statement, left at the door of a foreign press agency in Beirut on Wednesday...

It was a Congress filled with more self-criticism than most people had expected...

The French agency, Agence France-Presse, said the statement was much longer than the usual Islamic Jihad communiqués...

Among the reasons given in the communiqué for M Securat's "execution" was the French Government's decision a fortnight ago to deport to Iraq two pro-Iranian opponents of President Saddam Hussein's regime...

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Diocese faces fraud claims

San Francisco (UPI) - Somebody may have been using an office of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco to "launder" computers...

The diocese bought more than 2,000 computers at special educational discounts from Apple Computer...

The other 1,600 found their way back to retailers in New York City in a possible \$700,000 (£473,000) fraud...

Jets collide on exercise

San Clemente Island, California (UPI) - Two civilian Lear jets hired for a Navy radar tracking exercise collided over the ocean 60 miles southwest of Los Angeles...

The planes, owned and operated by Flight International in Carlisle and leased by the Navy...

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Sri Lanka is accused of killing Tamils

From Alan McGregor Geneva

The search for a peaceful solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic problem has received a serious setback...

Very clear evidence is now emanating that violence directed against the Tamils is indiscriminate and makes no distinction between those engaged in conflict and innocent civilians...

Egypt admits riot toll is triple estimate

From Alice Britton Cairo

Updated figures of 107 deaths and 719 injuries in last week's riots in Cairo...

Updated figures of 107 deaths and 719 injuries in last week's riots in Cairo...

Bomb destroys Mandela office

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The offices of the Release Mandela Committee in central Johannesburg were gutted early yesterday by what the police suspect was a petrol bomb...

Mr Aubrey Mokoena, the committee's publicity secretary, said that the damage, estimated at 200,000 rand (£71,420), was too extensive to have been caused by a petrol bomb...

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MONTHLY BOOK FAIR SUNDAY 9th MARCH 2pm-7pm MONDAY 10th MARCH 10.30am-7pm

Crocker and Russians meet on Namibia

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Mr Chester Crocker, the State Department's leading expert on African affairs, was in Geneva yesterday for talks with Soviet officials on the Namibia independence dispute...

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Kohl facing perjury claim with calm

From Frank Johnson Bonn

Chancellor Kohl says he is facing "with calm" an investigation for alleged false testimony to a Land parliamentary committee...

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Philippines tries to rebuild

Aquino awaits IMF's blessing for \$230m boost to loan

From Michael Hamlyn, Manila

The bailiffs of the International Monetary Fund arrive in Manila next week to take a look at the books and see whether the battered economy of the Philippines is worthy of rescue. Specifically they are coming to see whether guidelines insisted on by the IMF have been adhered to.

Philippine economy are evidenced by a sudden spurt in the value of the peso against the dollar. It has climbed almost 14 per cent in the past week, and people expect it to rise still further. Queues have formed outside the banks as people rush to change their dollars. The Central Bank's chairman, Mr Jose Fernandez, pointed out other hopeful signs: the gold and dollar acquisition of the Central Bank is at an all-time high, gold ceased to be bought entirely two months ago.

Though these improvements are significant they tend to diminish in size beside the Philippine problems. Compared to other countries in the region the Philippines is a disaster area. The average Singaporean, for example, whose country has virtually no natural resources at its disposal commands an income 10 times larger than that of the average Filipino. In neighbouring Malaysia, the infant mortality rate is half the rate of the Philippines.

Cardinal tells Pope of the Church's role

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Vatican protocol was stretched yesterday to allow Cardinal Sin, the Archbishop of Manila, an extra five minutes with the Pope to complete his report on the Philippines. This was at the expense of the Canadian Governor-General, Mrs Jeanne Sauvé, who was waiting to be received.

he had gone too far in involving the Church in political affairs. The cardinal has said he acted without consulting the papal nuncio in Manila. He had, though, tried to telephone the Pope at the height of the crisis, and was told by the Papal Secretariat that he was at a meeting.

Jury sends Mafia chiefs to jail

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

After a trial which revealed chilling details of Mafia savagery, six reputed top mobsters spent their first day in jail yesterday for running a murderous international car theft ring.

Eight men, who stayed stony-faced throughout, were accused of running the racket for Paul Castellano, former head of the infamous Gambino family, who was murdered on the street last September outside his favourite steakhouse in Manhattan.

against two of the defendants, who were also cleared of involvement in the car theft operation. Two of the other defendants were convicted of murder and face life imprisonment. Sentencing is due next month.

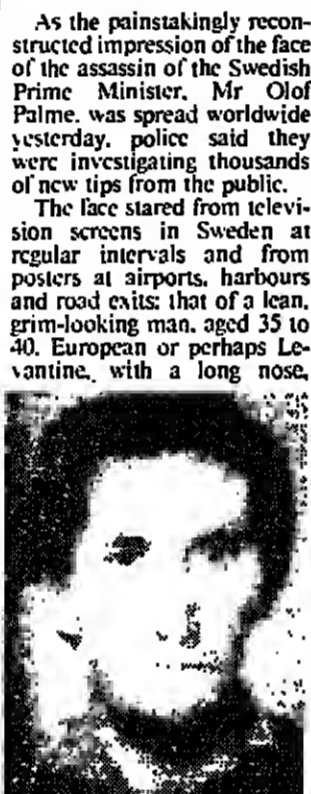


Clint Eastwood, the film actor, who is standing for mayor in Carmel, California, stops for the photographers outside City Hall before attending a council meeting. He wants to become more familiar with local issues.

Hunt for Palme's killer

Dragnet launched for the lean man

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm



Fotokit of the wanted man: very dangerous, say police.

As the painstakingly reconstructed impression of the face of the assassin of the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Olof Palme, was spread worldwide yesterday, police said they were investigating thousands of new tips from the public.

in from Wiesbaden, West Germany, with two German police experts. It is based principally on a sketch made by a 22-year-old woman portrait painter who fleetingly saw a man thought to be the killer in the light of a street lamp as he paused just before jumping into his getaway car.

Avalanche disaster stops Nato exercise

From Tony Sanstang Oslo

One of the largest Nato winter exercise ever organized was cancelled yesterday before it had begun after at least 13 Norwegian soldiers died in an avalanche in the Arctic Circle. Three men are still missing, presumed dead, from a party of 31.

The exercise, codenamed "Anchor Express" and involving 20,000 troops from eight Nato countries, was to have started just after midnight yesterday. But the avalanche struck early on Wednesday afternoon as part of the Norwegian Brigade North was making its way up a snow-covered slope in the remote Vassdalen region.

One survivor, Private Svein Arne Simonsen, said: "We had begun over in 15 seconds." It took the first rescue party about an hour to reach Private Simonsen and his comrades. Hundreds of men, using tracker dogs and helicopters in blizzard conditions, continued the search through the night. As the death toll mounted and conditions worsened Nato's senior allied commanders met through the night in emergency session. The decision to cancel Anchor Express was announced early yesterday.

Two tanker crew die in Iranian rocket attack

Bahrain (Reuters) - At least two seamen were killed and seven others wounded in a rocket attack which left a Cypriot tanker laden with 27,000 tonnes of petrol blazing in the Gulf, shipping sources said.

First reports said four men had died in the attack yesterday on the 30,292-ton Wise, but one source later said the death toll was thought to be two. The attack, apparently mounted by an Iranian helicopter, was the eighth on shipping in the Gulf in 12 days.

The dead and injured and the rest of the 22-man crew had been taken to Abu Dhabi by helicopter, the sources said. Their nationalities were not known.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

The most remarkable feature of the American political scene at the moment is the absence of any burning issue. A potential time-bomb perhaps, but no subject that is the centre of national attention and controversy.

It would have been different if the Philippines had turned sour. As it is, United States diplomacy has had an unexpected success. So the argument is merely whether this was due to the Administration's good management or good luck - an interesting topic for discussion, but not the kind of question to set a nation alight.

The Gramm-Rudman legislation to cut the budget deficit year by year until it is balanced in 1991, is the subject of much talk in Washington. But it does not seem to have attracted similar attention around the country as yet. Even in Washington it is still more of a warning of explosions to come rather than an immediate disturbance to the political peace. That is why it is a potential time bomb rather than a burning issue.

Amnesty empties Haiti jail

Port-au-Prince (Reuters) - Haiti yesterday declared a general amnesty and the capital's biggest jail was emptied of murderers, thieves and other criminals.

The ruling National Council declared the amnesty after rioting on Tuesday in the National Prison here during which inmates started fires and smashed furnishings in protest at conditions.

Witnesses said that among prisoners released were many who had been arrested by the Tomtons Macoute, the dreaded secret police, and kept in prison up to three years without charge. The Tomtons were disbanded when former President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier was forced to flee the country last month.

prosperity, but no politician has been more adept at walking away from failure or postponing awkward choices without political ill effect. The postponement of awkward choices has been in one sense his greatest failure, but is also a major reason for the present air of calm. The immediate effect of Gramm-Rudman is to serve the same purpose. Instead of the politicians making the really hard choices now they have agreed upon a mechanism that will require the really hard choices to be made in the future - and most people do not get excited about mechanisms.

Severe pressure on the budget

There are some people in Washington who believe that the continued growth of the economy will so increase government revenue as to relieve pressure on the Budget. Already the Congressional Budget Office has scaled down its estimate of the likely deficit. But unless this trend continues in quite dramatic fashion the effect of the legislation will be to put severe pressure on the Budget probably for 1987 and certainly for 1988.

Two tanker crew die in Iranian rocket attack

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Advertisement for Virgin Holidays. Text: 'A couple of this year's best value holiday spots. Spend £10 or more at any Virgin Store and we'll give you a voucher worth £50 off a two week holiday for two.*' Includes images of a couple and a Virgin Holiday Voucher for £50.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'inquiry b', 'draw', 'line on', 'shmir', 'E', 'Y', and 'Virgin'.

Inquiry blames pilot for liner disaster

From Richard Long, Wellington

The New Zealand pilot of the Soviet cruise liner Mikhail Lermontov was blamed in an official report yesterday for navigating the ship on to rocks off New Zealand's South Island on February 16 while the Soviet master was not on the bridge.

The preliminary marine inquiry into the sinking of the 20,000-tonne liner makes it clear that the pilot, Captain Don Jamison, did not consult charts or Captain Vladislav Vorobyov before he made a

lawyers refused all comment. The official report referred several times to Captain Jamison's "sudden decision" to navigate through the passage between Cape Jackson headland and an offshore beacon.

It said he made the decision without consulting any other person, when the ship's master was absent from the bridge and the safe navigation of the ship was the responsibility of the senior deck officer on watch, Sergei Stepanlachev. Had the original course been maintained, the ship would have been safe.

The report found that the liner was being manoeuvred at full speed, with both engines on full ahead at the time of impact. The only person given instructions by Captain Jamison was the helmsman, Anatoly Burin.

A series of shocks were felt on impact, a starboard list developed, and Captain Vorobyov and other officers rushed to the bridge. Captain Jamison took no further action in his capacity as pilot, apart from advising the safest part of Port Gore in which to anchor or beach the ship.

The report said Captain Jamison had previously navigated small craft, with draughts of up to about 6ft, through the passage, but had no detailed knowledge of the soundings and obstructions in the passage. But he had seen the largest-scale chart of the area, which showed the passage to be foul ground.

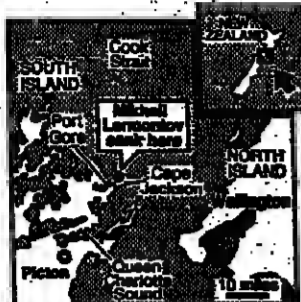


The last moments of the doomed Soviet liner, photographed from a fisherman's boat.

criticisms of the liner's lifeboats and lifesaving appliances were not borne out by the evidence presented to the inquiry.

It quoted Captain John Brew, master of the NZ inter-island ferry Ararua, which played a major part in the rescue, as saying that the abandonment of the vessel, without loss of life or serious injury, was a credit to Captain Vorobyov, his officers and crew and a feat deserving the highest praise.

Mr Prebble said that, as the preliminary inquiry had established the course of events beyond reasonable doubt, no further formal investigation would be held.



"sudden decision" to take the ship through a passage between a beacon and a headland usually used only by small launches and fishing craft.

One Soviet seaman died, but the rest of the 740 passengers and crew were rescued when the ship sank less than five hours after its hull was ripped open.

The New Zealand Transport Minister, Mr Richard Prebble, who released the report, said Captain Jamison had surrendered his coastal pilot's licence.

Captain Jamison and his

Scorching Victoria greets the Queen

From Tony Dubouain Melbourne

Melbourne turned on a scorching welcome for the Queen on her first full day in Victoria with the temperature soaring to 38C (100F). The temperature aside, the rest of the welcome was also warm.

There was no attempt to throw anything at the Queen, turn hoses on her, expose breasts, bottoms, or break into her motorcade.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attended a traditional garden party at Government House for 5,000 people who braved the sweltering temperature and the flies to catch a glimpse of the sovereign.

The Queen managed to look cool but several times had to brush flies from her face.

The invited garden party guests started queuing at 9am in a line which stretched for half a mile down the drive.

They were served scones, tea and coffee while they waited for the Queen to appear. For one woman, Miss Elsa Davis, it was all worthwhile. Miss Davis, who has corresponded with Buckingham Palace for 20 years and has written many songs about the Royal Family, had a brief chat with the Queen.

After lunch the royal party spent a quiet afternoon before joining thousands of people to watch the Moomba Festival pageant on the Yarra River.

González fights back as polls show Nato defeat

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's ruling Socialist Party sought to redouble its efforts yesterday in the Nato referendum campaign under the stunning impact of 00 per cent "no" votes.

To a fierce battle among the opinion poll institutes only the state-run Centre for Sociological Investigation, habitually used by the Government, gave victory to those in favour, by a single point - 28 per cent to 27 - with 31 per cent still undecided. Polling takes place next Wednesday.

Three dailies, *El País*, *La Vanguardia* and *Diario 16*, gave differing negative figures, as did a fourth poll coming from three Spanish privately-owned poll institutes pooling their resources at their own expense as a contribution to what is undoubtedly the most agitated public debate Spain has seen in almost nine years of democracy.

The heads of Spai's seven biggest banks have also weighed in, warning of "incalculable consequences" for the Spanish economy if the "no" vote triumphs next week.

The *El País* poll, taken up to three days ago from a representative sample of 3,000 Spaniards, gave a majority of "no" votes ranging between 52 and 56 per cent, with the "yes" vote between 40 and 46,

and between 30 and 35 per cent abstaining.

The *Vanguardia* poll gave 40 per cent "no" votes and 28 per cent "yes".

The Government of Señor Felipe González has promised that if the "no" votes are in a majority, it will quit the Atlantic Alliance which Spai joined less than four years ago.

The Prime Minister's message has in the last days been one of monotonous insistence, appealing to the voters to "punish" him if they wish at the general elections constitutionally due later this year, but not at the Nato referendum.

The Socialist leaders yesterday took the adverse poll figures to deadly earnest. Señor Alfonso Guerra, the Deputy Prime Minister, addressing a rally of Socialist sympathizers, told them they must "sweat it out even more" to turn around the trend.

The poll in *El País* showed the Basque region and Catalonia and those aged 18 to 34 running strongest against Nato. Spaniards of higher educational levels were more opposed than those with less schooling, as were men more than women.

When the pollsters asked Spaniards to rank the other Nato member countries in order of preference, Britain was at the bottom of the list along with the US.

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Zia draws the line on Kashmir

From Hassan Akhtar Islamabad

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan, in a speech here, called the disputed state of Kashmir the country's jugular vein and said eight and a half million Muslims could never think of making any compromise on the issue.

He was speaking on Wednesday night at a dinner given for him by the recently elected leader of the Pakistani part of Kashmir, Sardar Abdal Qayyum Khan.

General Zia said the Kashmir issue should be resolved - by India, which holds most part of the disputed state - peacefully and honourably, in accordance with United-Nations resolutions.

Mr Yaqub Khan, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, rejected on Wednesday the Indian Foreign Minister's recent claim that the Siachen glacier, close to the border with China, was part of what was described as "occupied" Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr Yaqub Khan told Parliament that the glacier had been historically under Pakistan's control, but he urged MPs not to debate the issue at this time, as the defence secretaries of Pakistan and India were due to meet to discuss the issue for a second time in April. Pakistani and Indian troops are said to be confronting one another on the glacier at a height of about 18,000ft.

There has been a noticeable hostility in statements issued by officials of the two countries in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, President Zia took the Pakistani press to task for publishing reports suggesting differences between him and his Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Khan Junejo. He said such reports were an attempt to harm the unity and stability of Pakistan.

One abortion in Italy every minute

Rome (AFP) - Italian women are shunning the contraceptive pill and instead using abortion as a form of birth control, according to a report issued here.

The National Association of Demographic Education reported that Italian use of the Pill ranked with Portugal at the bottom of the European league. But there was nearly one abortion every minute in Italy, more than 400,000 a year, of which 215,000 were in clinics and the others illegal.

The Government was particularly concerned that the biggest category for abortions comprised married women in the 25 to 34 age group with two children, a striking contrast to other European countries where abortion is usually associated with the unmarried.

Concert drops Mrs Reagan

Washington (UPI) - Mrs Nancy Reagan wanted several musicians removed from next month's anti-drug concert in Los Angeles, but organizers wound up dropping her instead. They accused her of trying to turn the international event into a debate about offensive lyrics and music censorship.

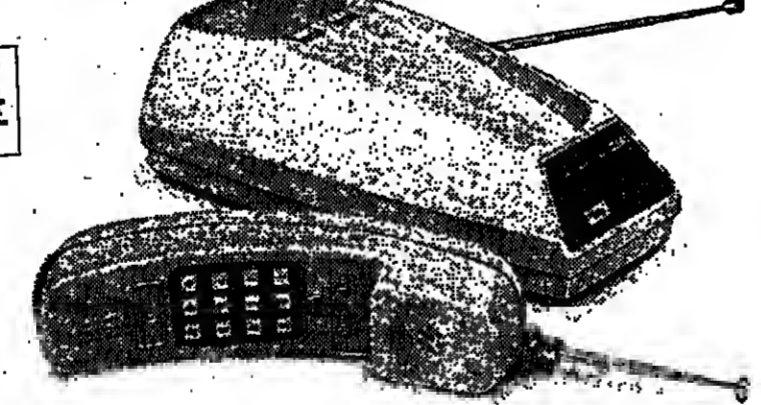
A spokesman for the promoters refused to name those Mrs Reagan's office had asked to be removed.



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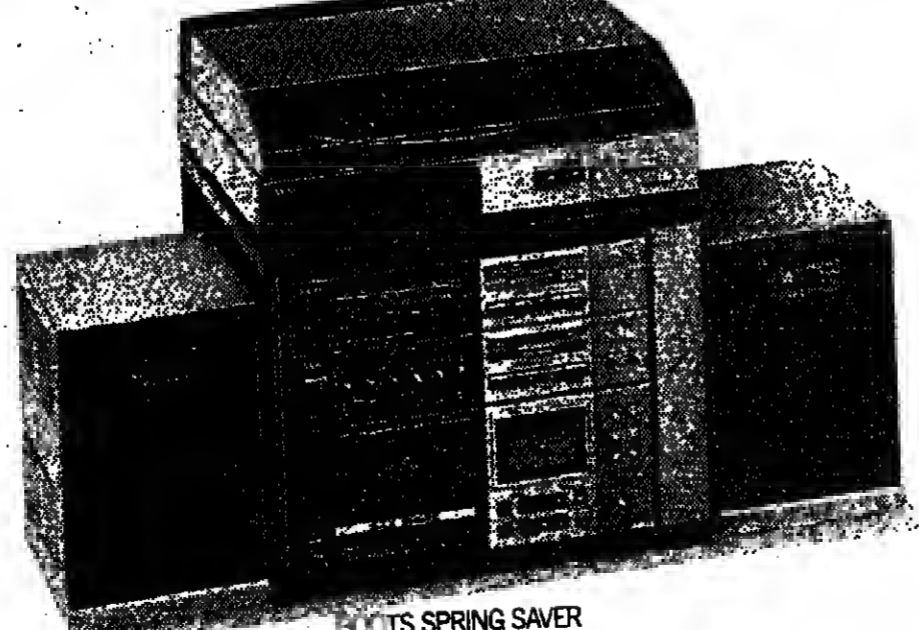
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The going's better at the bookies

On Monday the drab British betting shop will receive a dramatic facelift when restrictions on the serving of refreshments are lifted. On the racecourse, though, the future looks grim

The British betting shop is a drab and cheerless place, functional and unwelcoming. Only the bare necessities are grudgingly provided — pages from that day's racing press pinned on the walls, a scattered selection of betting slips, a few stools, plastic ashtrays and, at the business end, a counter behind which bored tellers take punters' money, and, less often, give it back.

The only touch of colour comes when the marker writes up the results on a board, in red, green and blue felt pens; but even he is to be replaced by a black-and-white television.

The starkness is deliberate, decreed by government policy. But from next Monday, with little publicity and minimal parliamentary debate, betting shops will be given the go-ahead to change their image. They will be allowed to serve non-alcoholic drinks and snacks, and for the first time show racing — and other sporting events — on television. These changes will affect not just betting shop habits and finances, but the future and shape of racing itself.

Betting shops were legalized only 26 years ago. Before 1960, betting on horse racing was allowed only at the racecourse or on credit (an attempt to confine it to the affluent classes).

A network of illegal betting developed, with the street-corner "bookie's runner" as its central operator. It was accompanied, inevitably, by corruption, protection rackets and underworld violence.

The legalization of off-course cash betting was prompted by the fact that the ban was ineffective. There followed, after a Royal Commission and years of indecision, a typically hypocritical British compromise: betting shops would be allowed as long as they were unattractive and inhospitable. A person determined to put a cash bet on a horse or greyhound would be able to do so, but would be given no incentive to linger. At one stage, the government considered creating an offence of "loitering in a betting shop". The only concession was to allow race commentary over a radio system in the shop. However, it had to be delivered in a monotone, with no variation of pitch.

Officially, all that has changed is that the determined punter will be able to bet in slightly more comfort. But no one in the betting or racing industry believes that.



Big bucks: in the United States, the punters' pleasuredome at Caesars Palace offers the betting fraternity the latest in hi-tech luxury. The race and sports book boasts seating for four hundred, more than 20 video screens giving live sports and results services, and a large buffet. Drinks are on the house.

THE NEW LAWS

- From Monday, betting shops will be able to:
- Show live or recorded horse and dog racing and other sporting events but no non-sporting programmes. The screen cannot be over 30 inches wide.
- Sell snacks and non-alcoholic drinks, either through vending machines or over a counter. Alcohol, sandwiches and cakes are banned.
- Increase the advertisements in their windows but TV or other moving pictures in windows are forbidden.

In the first phase of betting shop television, when only BBC and ITV coverage will be shown, but with the arrival, probably within a year, of satellite television exclusive to the betting shops. The plan is to cover one full race meeting — six races — every day, as well as one greyhound meeting. Why should the punter struggle to a racecourse, often out of town, in bad weather, to see racing he could watch on the television in the warmth and comfort of a shiny new betting shop?

The racecourses are starting to negotiate with companies and consortia interested in acquiring rights to beam racing from satellites to the betting shops. The front runner so far is Satellite Racing Development, a company set up with the backing of the Big Four.

Etief, which provides the existing results and information service to shops, will shortly enter the market, and a half dozen other possibilities are being explored. The irony is that the racecourses may end up being paid large sums to hold racing in front of almost nobody. Their intention, Sir Peter Leng says, is to use the money to improve facilities to woo the customer back to live racing, so completing the circle.

Smaller bookmakers are equally worried about their future. There are fewer betting shops today — 10,650 — than at any time since their legalization. Over the past 10 years their numbers have decreased by nearly 30 per cent, mainly because more and more neighbourhood betting shops and small chains have been swallowed up by the giants. The small independents still account for two-thirds of all shops, but they now take less than 50 per cent of the takings.

"Obviously we're concerned about satellite television. Will our members be able to afford the service?" asked Mr Paul Massey, secretary of the National Association of Bookmakers, which represents the small shop-owners. And will they be able to compete with all the other facilities that the wealthier betting shops intend to lay on? Massey admits that some of his members are pessimistic.

The big bookmakers claim to regard the changes as modest, merely part of the process of allowing the punter to be treated as an adult after years of nannying. But then, as one struggling bookie commented: "They aren't a charity. They wouldn't be spending all this money unless they were sure of a big return."

Marcel Berlins

'The Nevada sports book is the nearest thing to gambling heaven'

The king of the Las Vegas odds-makers is Michael Ruxborough, known wherever bets on sporting events are made as "Roxy". You want a line (price) on a football match, a baseball game, college basketball, or any other event east to coast, Roxy has got it.

Off-track betting is illegal in the United States except in Nevada. No doubt a good deal of money is wagered in the rest of the country through illegal bookmakers. Maybe some of the money finds its way to Nevada. But punters must be physically present in the "sports book", as the betting shops are called. The set-up in the Nevada

sports books is the nearest thing to gambling heaven yet devised. Imagine a lecture hall with rows of seats, each with its own table top, banked up in a wide semi-circle. Down below, across the front of the room, is a line of six or eight television monitors showing live, every race meeting, every football game, every important sporting event taking place in the United States. Behind the television screens are the betting windows. Drinks are on the house. Roxy, aged 35, a political science graduate, explains that the line is calculated on the basis that the player bets 11 to win 10. This gives the bookmakers an edge which is

very hard to beat. In football games — during the season the whole country comes to a stop on Sunday afternoons — the price is in the form of a spread of the score between the two teams. Thus you might see on the board: 49ers — 13½. A punter betting on the 49ers must deduct 13½ points from the team before the ball has even been kicked; to win the bet, the 49ers must win by more than 13½ points. A punter backing the other team will win if his team loses by less than this margin, or wins outright. This is the line, which the odds-makers like Roxy supplies to the sports book operators. "I make the line according to my

assessment of the teams", Roxy says. "The price must look attractive to supporters of both the 49ers and the underdog team." Which ever side the punter chooses, he wagers in the ratio of 11 to win 10. In Las Vegas, where big gamblers' passion for their favourite football teams far outweighs their judgment of form, very big sums indeed are bet, like \$100,000 to win just over \$90,000.

The prices on horse races come direct from the track. The sports books have not had it all their own way in recent years. Figures for 1985, just published, show that Nevada sports books "handle" (total money wagered) was

\$885,000,000 and "win" was \$21,000,000, or 2.48 per cent. The previous year showed a return of 2.3 per cent. The margins are very fine, because of the cost of transmitting the events. One sports book actually made a loss on a turnover of \$63,000,000. The bookies fared better on the horses. In 1985 turnover was \$243m with a win of \$39m or 16 per cent. The sports books have an ace in the hole, though. The wagering takes place in the casinos. Anyone lucky enough to walk away with a fistful of dollars is likely to blow it on the tables on the way out.

David Spanier

Betting shop owners, especially the big four chains (Mecca, William Hill, Ladbroke and Joe Coral) see the legalization as an opportunity for significantly increasing their betting turnover. The 39 racecourses in Britain expect it will lead to a fall in the number of spectators.

Lord Fairhaven, senior steward of the Jockey Club, horseracing's governing body, called it "the most significant transformation of betting since it was legalized off-course a quarter of a century ago", and devoted a large part of his

annual speech at the Gimcrack Dinner in December to discussing ways in which racing could respond.

There is concern, too, about the possible social and psychological effects. Dr Emmanuel Moran, a psychiatrist and chairman of the National Council on Gambling, believes that the improved conditions will lead to more betting and, therefore, more gambling addicts.

One punter described the difference the new-look betting shops would make to him: "Instead of putting on all my bets at lunch-

time on Saturday and then going home to watch what's happened to my money, I'll probably stay in the shop. And if I do that, there's no doubt I'll spend more."

One betting shop manager predicted: "I think I'll get quite a lot of new custom as well. A lot of people think of betting shops as very dreary and not very respectable. Once the word gets around that they're really quite nice places, with telly and everything, I think people will come in just to

see. I'm not saying they'll all become regulars or anything, but we're bound to pick up some of their money."

Sir Peter Leng, chairman of the Racecourses Association, to which all courses in Britain belong, is very worried about the effect on attendances. "Our estimate is that they will fall by between 9 and 15 per cent. As it is, most of the courses don't make a profit, or very little. So we must make sure that they're adequately compensated for the loss of spectators." Racing and betting are uneasy

but mutually dependent bedfellows. The sport receives a large part of its revenue from a levy on bookmakers' profits. Last year this amounted to more than £21m. In return, the racing authorities commit themselves to holding at least two race meetings every day except Sunday.

But attendances at some racecourses, especially on winter weekdays, are extremely low. Without the bookmakers' levy probably no more than a dozen or so courses could survive. The main threat will come not

FRIDAY'S CHILD IS LOVING & GIVING

Friday's child is loving and giving — and wary as well. Where is my charity donation going? How much is it helping? With Dr Barnardo's you know. And so do the thousands of handicapped or deprived youngsters we'll help this year. So if you're a Friday's Child at heart, here's your chance to prove it.

send your donations or write for information to Dr Barnardo's, Barking-side, Essex IG6 1QG (01) 550 8822.

The people's cardinal

Years of handling tense church-state politics equipped Cardinal Sin for a key role in the Filipino revolution

Cardinal Sin he used the church radio to rally the crowds

Cardinal Jaime Sin could not have chosen a more propitious time for a visit to the Filipino community in Britain. He will celebrate Mass at Westminster Cathedral today and tomorrow — less than a fortnight after his church helped oust the hated government of Ferdinand Marcos. He has come straight from a visit to the Vatican where at the weekend the Pope expressed affection for the Filipino people. However, he did not mention the local church — an indication perhaps that, despite the happy outcome, he had reservations about its role.

During the events leading to Marcos's overthrow, Cardinal Sin, archbishop of Manila and head of the Catholic Church in the Philippines, made it quite clear what he thought the 85 per cent of Filipinos who are Catholic should do. The church's radio station, Radio Veritas, helped rally them in the church's banner.

Cardinal Sin's host at Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, attained his present office 10 years ago — in the same year as his guest. At the time, Cardinal Sin was not yet the senior cardinal in the Philippines church. That was Cardinal Julio Rosales who not only came from Imelda Marcos's home town, Tacloban, Leyte, but baptized her.

Cardinal Rosales's closeness to the Marcos family set the tone for the church. Even in some of the country's most

political office like some priests in Nicaragua. In the early years after his appointment Cardinal Sin adopted what he called a policy of "critical collaboration" with the regime. He called for the government to be more democratic while demanding restraint of the opposition.

Criticism reached a peak after the cardinal celebrated Marcos's birthday with a Mass earlier this year and publicly embraced him. The cardinal quickly responded that he had embraced Mr Marcos to find out his true physical strength after months of the debilitating disease, lupus. The answer, said the cardinal, was that Marcos had very little strength left in his arms.

Cardinal Sin's diplomatic skills and his willingness to talk have made him a favourite with foreign correspondents. He normally gives interviews over breakfast, at 6.30am. Journalists would arrive to find the cardinal already at his desk, witty and good-humoured. His sense of humour probably developed out of necessity as the 14th of 16 children born to a Filipino mother and a Chinese father.

His opening line at press conferences is always the same but perennially amusing: "Welcome to the house of Sin".

To many correspondents and observers, the peaceful outcome of the revolution and the church's role in it seemed like a miracle, sufficient to overcome any reservations Rome may have about its most prominent Filipino son.

David Watts

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 893

ACROSS

- Sports plate (6)
- Eat greedily (6)
- Mongrel (3)
- Richt cake (6)
- Appeal to (6)
- Small vessel (4)
- Coal mine gas (8)
- Haiti money (6)
- Change (6)
- May (8)
- Concern (4)
- Spanish mountains (6)
- To each one (6)
- Ragged article (3)
- Allow (6)
- Let off (6)

DOWN

- Mature insect (5)
- Swindler (7)
- Disorderly struggle (7)
- Less wet (5)
- Very bright (5)
- Dishevelled (7)
- Ostrich-like bird (3)
- Ogg, organ (7)
- Scale first note (3)
- Official instruction (7)
- Of touch (7)
- Pulsate (5)
- Make speech (5)
- Summarise (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 892

ACROSS: 8 Blotting paper 9 UNO 10 Loving cup 11 Dwell 13 Largely 16 Seniors 19 Slide 22 Recommended 24 Cos 25 Bouillabaisse

DOWN: 1 Abound 2 Marcus 3 Sulleto 4 Suvrel 5 Spin Apache 7 Prepsy 12 Wee 14 Residual 15 Lad 16 Scribe 17 Recoup 18 Stalae 20 Incise 21 Easter 23 Meli

THE TIMES SATURDAY

The weekend starts here

A week at the races

Cheltenham is the place for people who love horses at least as much as they love people. Next week's Cheltenham Festival, culminating in the Gold Cup, is the professionals' meet, where new jump champions are created and former champions like Arkle remembered with reverence. Read *The Times* insiders' guide to Cheltenham Festival, and join the professionals

Heart of darkness Beat the Budget
West African wanderings Bin-end wine bargains

Portfolio

£22,000 to be won

Can you always get your copy of *The Times*?

Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of *The Times*

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Food for...

THE TIMES DIARY

The hidden thorn

Peter Dixon, one of the "Lloyds naughties" who flew the coop after personally receiving an estimated £7.2 million from insurance syndicates...

Connopolitan

This year's runner-up in the Cosmopolitan New Journalist of the Year competition, Jane White was a real hit with editor Linda Kelsey...

Backtrack

No sooner had the all-party Employment Institute invited The Times to a talk by left-wing union leader David Bassett...

Choice

Merseyside Militants just won't lie down. Felicity Dowling, who is almost certain to be expelled from the party...

Down to earth

Princess Margaret's one-time companion, Roddy Llewellyn, has found a new circle of friends in Clapham...

Clawback

The V & A is not a museum to hide its leading light under a bush. Not only is it displaying a tapestry of director Sir Roy Strong with his cat...

Not the ticket

Kidderminster library's new computer is proving a mixed blessing, according to the Library Association Record...

PHS

Back to a true free market

by David Hart

Unlike Mr Gorbachov, Mrs Thatcher has her dissidents. Although many of hers may make better candidates for psychiatric hospitals than any of his...

visionary leadership of the national debate. This was never Mrs Thatcher's strong card. It is now more and more lacking.

Because there is no discernible central vision, whenever hard choices present themselves the government looks in a mess.

Those who argue emotively that Land Rover should stay British, especially Edward Heath and older Labour leaders...

Before it tries to answer these and other questions, the government needs to answer one fundamental one...

The present tide of Tory dissidents has one advantage. It obliges free-market advocates to consider their policy on the road

to Damascus. The government will, for many years, control the spending of huge sums of money on defence...

Like sainthood, a perfect free market is a difficult thing to reach. But, like sainthood, it is worth aspiring to...

Robert Fisk: how the Gulf war is affecting the people of Iran

Nation with a death wish

Tehran. The elderly, grey-bearded man emerged from the ruined house on cue. "Jang ta piruzi," he shrieked. "War till victory..."



Behind him, dark red flames rippled across the base of a burning oil storage depot where the Iraqis were shelling the Iranian lines...

of life, as opposed to death; are likely to save them; the collapsing oil price, for example, the country's failing industries...

Western embassy staffs in Iran, their meals washed down with home-made wine, produce statistics that are almost as awesome as the titanic war that has brought them about...

than he has experienced in six years of conflict and the Iranians, even the middle-class Iranians whose nationalism outweighs their contempt for the regime...

Exasperation is expressed by the middle-classes, not by the poor, by those with education and money which cannot be taken out of Iran...

On their short-wave transistors, those Iranians who still hope for change listen to the voices of the mujahedin resistance. But the calls for counter-revolution come from outside Iran...

With Iran continuing its offensive in Iraqi Kurdistan, keeping half a million men in reserve opposite the Majnoon marshes, there is less reason to stop the war now than before...

Individually, tens of thousands of Iranians will power in the negative. Yet human life is not the only thing which can die in Iran...

How to get on under Gorbachov

In the Soviet Union, where the Communist Party Congress has just ended with the election of a new central committee, a clear profile is emerging of the sort of official who will see the Soviet state into the 21st century...

one of the 1983 police swoops on malingers. If you like an occasional shot of vodka, and know how to get round the licensing hordes, do not say so.

Ural, or the Stavropol region of central southern Russia (where Gorbachov spent much of his career). You may find it worth mentioning that you were once associated with Andrei Kirilenko...

and paying them accordingly, you will be highly sought after. Your prospects will be still better if you can combine this experience with a knowledge of how to conduct or interpret public opinion polls.

Other negative indicators: if the contents of your in-tray decreased mysteriously in 1983, during Andropov's period in office...

And finally, television. If you have not appeared on TV, and have no ambition to, remedy this as soon as possible.

It is a terrifying phenomenon and one with which Iran's neighbours cannot hope to come to terms. Their only salvation, perhaps, is that the Iranians will not know what to do with the victory which their blood sacrifice may obtain for them.

The more of these requirements you can meet, the more brilliant your prospects. But be warned. Joe skeleton concealed in the family cupboard...

David Watt South African stalemate

President Botha of South Africa has had front-page coverage in Europe and the US this week for two announcements...

The regime is under enormous internal pressure, everyone can see that it is moving by its own glacial standards, further and faster than ever before...

The hopeful scenario goes something like this: Botha has seen the writing on the wall and is really prepared, though he dare not quite say so, to start a more or less open-ended dialogue with black leaders...

moreover... Miles Kington

Cue for hard thinking

There are two kinds of game. One involves body contact with the opponent; the other does not. In body contact games you may find yourself in violent contact with the opponent (boxing, soccer)...

Moreover prints the first complete diagram of a tense position from a recent high-level snooker game. And asks you: "What would you do next?"

You can tell they are intellectual because newspapers and magazines run columns for them, complete with intellectual diagrams. A chess column always comes with a board showing the last grim stages of a match...

An additional problem is that we do not have the capability just now of showing you which ball is which colour, so that all the balls in the diagram look black, except of course for the cue ball which is black on the outside and white in the middle...

But there is another game which does not obey any of these rules. Snooker. Snooker is intellectual. It is non-violent. And yet there is no newspaper column about snooker which poses intellectual problems...

There you are, then. There's our No 1 Snooker Problem. What you have to do is work out who is playing who, what the position is, what you would do, and what excuse you would have for not being able to do it.

Mary Dejevsky



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 6: The Prince Andrew, President of the Royal Aero Club, this evening attended a meeting of the Council of the Royal Aero Club followed by dinner at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly, London, W1.

COURT AND SOCIAL

being received by Her Majesty Alroy as assuming her appointment as Director, Women's Royal Air Force. KENSINGTON PALACE March 6: The Prince of Wales (this morning attended a Commonwealth Development Corporation Board Meeting at 33 Hill Street, London, W1.



Emperor Hirohito of Japan and Empress Nagako enjoying the plum blossom in the gardens of the Imperial Palace yesterday on the empress's eighty-third birthday.

Birthdays today

Sir Robert Adkinson, 70; Sir Kingsley Collett, 80; Mr J.O. Hambro, 67; Sir Anthony Lambert, 75; Mr Justice Lacey, 72; Mr Ivan Lendl, 36; Sir David Montagu Douglas Scott, 99; Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, 65; Mr Eduardo Paoletti, 62; Professor Sir David Phillips, 62; Mr Piers Paul Read, 45; Mr Viv Richards, 34; the Earl of Snowdon, 56; Mr Martin Tiekner, 45; Sir Ranulph Twissleton-Wyhamer-Flemes, 42; Dame Margaret Weston, 60.

Luncheons

Butchers' Company Mr David L. Franks, Master of the Butchers' Company, presided at a court luncheon held at Butchers' Hall yesterday. Mr Blyth Oxley and Mr Roger de Grey, President of the Royal Academy, also spoke.

Dinners

Royal Aero Club Prince Andrew, President of the Royal Aero Club, presided at the council dinner held at the RAF Club last night. He was welcomed by Air Commodore R. Wood, Chairman of the RAF Club, and Mr Beverley Snook, Chairman of the Royal Aero Club. Among those present were:

Sale room Looking back without avail

After its failure to sell John Braine's diaries last autumn, Bloomsbury Book Auctions failed yesterday to find a buyer for a collection of Arnold Wesker's works, all signed and inscribed to his friend, the poet Nathaniel Tan.



Portrait of Dimitri Grigorievich Levitsky, which fetched £7,560 at Christie's yesterday.

OBITUARY PROFESSOR ANDRE LEROI-GOURHAN Revolutionary studies in palaeolithic art

Professor André Leroi-Gourhan who died on February 19, at the age of 74, was a French archaeologist who made enormous contributions to prehistoric studies. Born in Paris he spent his early student years learning Russian and Chinese, after which he turned to ethnology and archaeology. He was involved in setting up the Musée de l'Homme, of which he was a sub-director, and was director of the journal Gallia Préhistoire from 1962.

MR J. M. SHRINAGESH

A correspondent writes: Mr J. M. Shrinagesh, CBE, who has died in New Delhi at the age of 81, was a former Indian Civil Servant who after independence played a notable role in Indian public life as an administrator and industrialist.

ERN SHAW

Ernest Shaw, the cartoonist who always signed his drawings Ern Shaw, died on February 22 at the age of 95. His most popular strip cartoon was Mr and Mrs Dillwater, which ran in the weekly magazine, Answers, from 1923 to 1948.

REV RICHARD HAMPER

The Rev Richard J. Hamper, who had been General Secretary of the Free Church Federal Council since 1979, died at the age of 57, on February 25.

LUDMILA V. RUDESKO

Ludmila Vladimirovna Rudenko, who became the Soviet Union's first woman world chess champion when she won the title in 1950, has died in Moscow at the age of 82.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.M.P. Eastace and Miss G.R. Oughton The engagement is announced between James, son of Major and the Hon Mrs T.R.H. Eastace, of Gibe House, Bournemouth, Kent, and Gaby, daughter of the late Mr Alan Oughton and Mrs D.R. Oughton, of the Vale, Ffindon, Sussex.

Service dinners

Britannia Royal Naval College The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster was the guest of honour at a mess dinner held last night at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. The commander of the college, Commander I.W. Craig, presided.

Church news

Appointments The Rev. Andrew, Assistant Curate, St Martin, Epworth, Diocese of Lincoln, is to be appointed to the post of Curate, St Peter, Epworth, Diocese of Lincoln.

University news

Heriot-Watt The following have been promoted to personal professorship: Dr J. Christopher Eilbeck, reader and head of mathematics department; Dr Denis Molison, senior lecturer in statistics; Dr Brian Waldie, reader, department of chemical and process engineering; and Dr Brian S. Wherritt, senior lecturer in offshore engineering.

Inner Temple

Duke of Edinburgh entrance scholarships, which defray the cost of admission to the inn and call to the Bar, have been awarded to the following: BA, of Worcester College, Oxford; R.H. Cooper, BA, of London; M. J. G. Jones, BA, of London; G. Dickson, LL.B., of the University of London; M. D. Parnham, LL.B., of the University of London; M. J. P. Jones, BA, of London; M. J. G. Jones, BA, of London; M. J. G. Jones, BA, of London.

Meeting

Royal Commonwealth Society The Prime Minister of Barbados gave a luncheon talk yesterday at the Royal Commonwealth Society, entitled "Developments in the Caribbean". Sir Duncan Watson, deputy chairman of the society, was in the chair.

Science report

Soviet craft penetrates core of Halley's Comet The first close-up pictures of Halley's Comet have revealed a nucleus of between 2 to 2.5 miles across, smaller than estimated from the previous photographs taken from ground-based telescopes.

Baking for the Easter Festival

The Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the "Sheffs" ladies, opened the "Baking for the Easter Festival" exhibition at the Barbican Library on Wednesday night.

Deacons

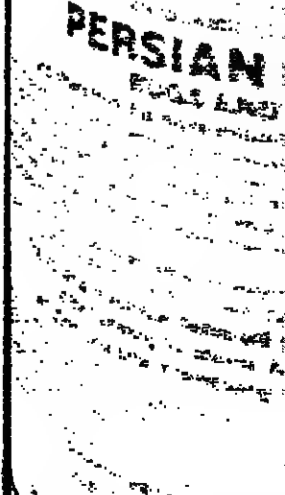
The Rev. R. Lawrence, Vicar, St Stephen, Preston, Diocese of Chester, is to be appointed to the post of Deacon, St Paul's Cathedral, London.

Resignations and retirements

The Rev. W. R. Hartley, Vicar, St John, Manchester, is to retire on April 30. The Rev. G. M. H. Jones, Vicar, St Paul, London, is to retire on April 30.

Grants

Medical Research Council: £49,662 to Dr G. T. Kozlowski and Dr A. W. Sillitoe for studies on the effects of alcohol on the brain and on the effects of alcohol on the liver.



كثير من الناس
 في الشهر الماضي

IN JANUARY MANY PEOPLE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE £1,000 BY TAKING FORD CREDIT'S FINANCE DEAL.

Tuesday, January 7, 1986.

WANT TO SAVE £1,000?

YOU COULD WITH FORD CREDIT'S FINANCE SCHEME IF YOU NEED TO BORROW £5,500 FOR A NEW CAR.

That's the difference between the 4.9% p.a. (9.5% APR) rate and an earlier Ford Credit rate of 11% p.a. (21.4% APR). Just take a look at these examples of the Ford Credit finance deals you can get from January 2nd 1986 on all Escorts, Orion, Sierras, Capris and Fiestas.

In February rising interest rates meant that we had to revise this scheme.

However, the new rate of finance was a low 5.9% p.a. (11.4% APR) over three years, or 4.9% p.a. (9.5% APR) over two years, and it proved extremely popular.

So much so that we're now extending it to cover any Capri or Sierra registered between March 1st and March 31st, 1986.

Don't forget that the examples we give in the table are based on the *maximum* retail price of the car.

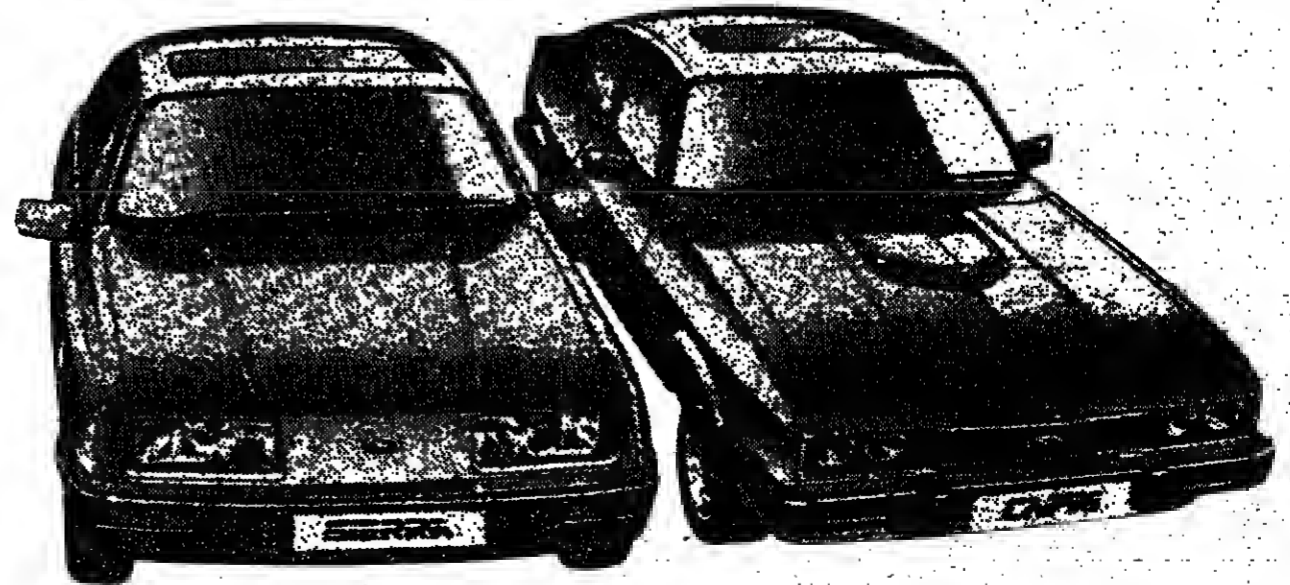
If you talk to your Ford dealer you could get an even better deal and still use the attractive interest rates quoted above.

The above finance plan is subject to credit approval and applies to Sierra and Capri vehicles registered between March 1st and March 31st in England, Scotland and Wales and which are subject to Conditional Sale Agreements arranged by participating Ford dealers and underwritten by Ford Motor Credit Company Ltd, Regent House, 1 Hubert Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4QL. Applicants must be over 18 years of age and credit worthy. Please note: various factory fitted options are available for eligible vehicles at extra cost. Figures are correct at time of going to press.

Just take a look at these typical examples of Ford Credit Finance deals.

MODEL	SIERRA 1.8 LASER	CAPRI 2.0 LASER
APR	11.4%	11.4%
Cash Price*	7253.38	7328.44
Initial Payment (minimum 20%)	1450.68	1465.69
Amount of Credit	5802.70	5862.75
36 Monthly Instalments of	189.72	191.68
Charge for Credit	1027.22	1037.73
Total Credit Price	8280.60	8366.17

*Maximum retail price as at March 1st 1986 excluding delivery, number plates and road fund licence.



FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Sale near at Cadbury

A decision on the sale of Cadbury's food and beverage division...

This figure was described as being "not widely out" at yesterday's meeting...

The management stresses that although there have been "expressions of interest"...

TI success

TI Group, the Raleigh cycles and steel tube manufacturer...

Rise for JM

Johnson Matthey, the platinum refiner, lifted profits from £12.8 million to £17.8 million...

Abbott higher

Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising agents, lifted its full-year profits to £2.25 million...

Rank review

There was speculation last night that the result of Monday's judicial review...

Meggitt rights

Meggitt Holdings' rights issue was accepted for 11.62 million new shares...

NZI offer

NZI Corporation has extended the closing date for acceptance of its offer...

Meyer sales

Meyer International has sold its minority investments in Delta Berhad and Delta Far East...

Dairies deal

Cliffords Dairies for £1.95 million through the issue of unsecured floating rate loan notes...

Jardine issue

Jardine Securities plans a one-for-five rights issue to help finance the proposed purchase of 52 million shares in Jardine Matheson Holdings...

New chairman

Mr Philip Jones, chairman of the Electricity Council, has succeeded Sir Robert Haslam as chairman of the Nationalized Industries' Chairman's Group...

Table with columns 'RISERS', 'FALLS' and various stock market listings with their respective price changes.

Barclays tops bank league after 37% rise in profits

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Barclays Bank yesterday announced that profits last year soared ahead by 37 per cent...

The figures - which are the last of the clearing bank reporting season - were achieved with the help of an unusually strong performance in British banking operations...

The bank easily met City expectations with a pretax profit of £254 million...

Barclays' after-tax profit leapt by more than 50 per cent to £49 million...

Mr Justice Macpherson said that had the Argyll case succeeded...

Argyll had asked for an order declaring illegal a decision by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission...

Mr Justice Macpherson said that had the Argyll case succeeded it would have put Guinness's bid...

Argyll lawyers said afterwards that they would appeal. Distillers has agreed to pay the costs of Guinness's friendly merger proposals...

The bid was referred to the Commission on February 13 by Mr Patten...

The judge said the decision to lay aside the reference - halting the Commission investigation of the bid before it had begun...

They had assured him that the bid was abandoned although they had "frankly and honestly" told him...

Argyll had alleged that the new bid was merely a revised version of the old one...

Argyll was ordered to pay the legal costs of Guinness, Distillers, the Commission and the Department of Trade...

year, overseas our performance was somewhat patchy but I believe the majority of our international business is coming right.

He attacked what he called the bankrupt policy of institutionalised racial discrimination in South Africa...

Barclays, which has been heavily criticized for its involvement in South Africa, has lent more than £800 million there...

The bank said that international profits would have been £41 million but for accounting changes...



Sir Timothy Bevan: bad debt provision will stay high

Barclays said that all areas of the British business had moved ahead satisfactorily with Barclaycard and treasury operations...

The British operations of Barclays Bank contributed £92 million to the total...

Sir Timothy said that although provisions against bad debt in the United Kingdom were 10 per cent lower last year...

The bank ended the year with a stronger capital base. Its free capital ratio rose from 5.2 to 7 per cent...

Case goes against Argyll

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

A High Court judge yesterday dismissed an attempt by Argyll Group to block Guinness's rival £2.4 billion takeover bid for Distillers.

Argyll had asked for an order declaring illegal a decision by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to lay aside its inquiry into the Guinness bid.

Mr Justice Macpherson said that had the Argyll case succeeded it would have put Guinness's bid, which has the backing of the Distillers directors...

Argyll lawyers said afterwards that they would appeal. Distillers has agreed to pay the costs of Guinness's friendly merger proposals...

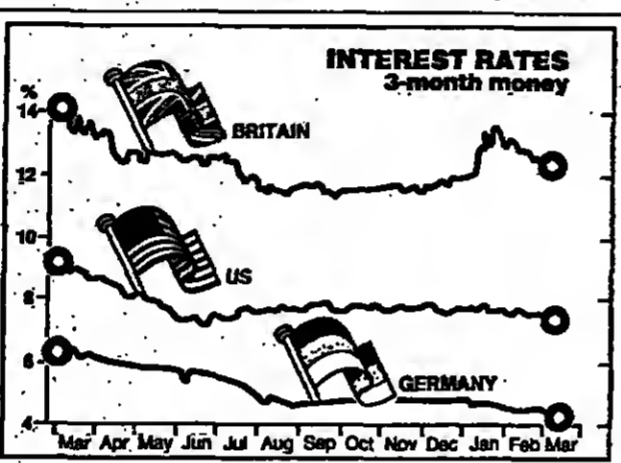
The bid was referred to the Commission on February 13 by Mr Patten, who was handling the affair because the Trade Secretary, Mr Paul Channon, has family connections with Guinness.

The judge said the decision to lay aside the reference - halting the Commission investigation of the bid before it had begun...

They had assured him that the bid was abandoned although they had "frankly and honestly" told him that they intended to make a higher bid...

Argyll had alleged that the new bid was merely a revised version of the old one. But the judge said it was "so different in all important matters that it left the old bid behind like a discarded skin."

Sir Godfrey's decision to act alone had been "eminently sensible and speedy". Argyll was ordered to pay the legal costs of Guinness, Distillers, the Commission and the Department of Trade...



Walker frees gas exports

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Peter Walker, has announced a fundamental change in Government policy which will allow oil companies operating in the North Sea to sell natural gas into the European pipeline network.

Exports from gas fields in the British sector of the North Sea are not banned at present, but the gas has to be landed in the United Kingdom before export.

In effect this has meant that the oil companies have been barred from exporting gas from the North Sea oil fields and have been forced to either sell it to British Gas...

The Department of Energy will now consider issuing an individual waiver to oil companies, allowing them to export natural gas into the European pipeline system.

However, the concession to the oil companies, which has been given because British Gas is being privatized this autumn, may do little to free the British Gas stronghold on current gas supply contracts from the North Sea.

At present prices per therm, the cost of laying pipelines into the European network from the British sector of the North Sea which produces gas - the area close to Lincolnshire and Norfolk where the North Sea is at its widest - is prohibitive.

Hanson profit growth attacked by Imperial

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Hanson Trust is showing an underlying rate of profit growth of only 2 per cent, its bid target, the Imperial tobacco and drinks group said yesterday.

The claim was made in a circular urging shareholders to reject Hanson's £2.4 billion offer and instead accept an alternative bid, also worth more than £2 billion, from United Biscuits.

The circular says that Hanson would be forced to break up Imperial and sell off its businesses to reduce debt if its bid is successful and that Hanson would be unlikely to make the capital investment which Imperial's branded consumer products need for long-term success.

Mr Martin Taylor, a Hanson director, said Imperial's figures on both Hanson's profit and an probable debt were wrong and that a company which had lost a third of its British market share in tobacco in the last five to 10 years could not claim to know much about how to support branded goods.

King presses for BA sale

Lord King, chairman of British Airways, yesterday urged the Government to avoid further delay in the airline's privatization.

The plea came as talks continued in the City and Whitehall over whether to adhere to the commitment to float the company in July or postpone it again because of continuing litigation over the Laker Airways collapse.

Lord King told Conservative MPs that the British Airways flotation could be one of the most significant sales in the privatization programme.

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The Panel wrestles with new problems

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

At the end of this month, the unlamented Council for the Securities Industry will dissolve into a page, perhaps no more than a paragraph, in the history of City regulation.

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Banks in balance

Last year was unquestionably a good one for the clearing banks. Their results revealed the expected clutch of disasters - and several unexpected ones - but in general their profit growth was impressive and their balance sheets looked stronger than they have for some time.

The outstanding feature was the strength of the United Kingdom performance. This flatly contradicts the received wisdom of the last three years that under the pressure of unprecedented competition UK banking was becoming less profitable.

This is clearly not so, but the reason is partly because competition has stimulated the banks to get their act together. They take pride in their success at winning back their share of retail deposits from building societies, for example.

The banks are aware that competition is only likely to intensify, but that awareness should be a source of strength. Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds, hinted at the way things may develop when he said that clearing banks would have to specialize to compete against the legions of specialist institutions.

The banks are gradually freeing themselves from the straightjacket of being all things to all men, and they are sensing the profits to be made. The chief areas of concern must be what happens to their investment banking profits after big bang. The banks are large enough to absorb losses, but it will not help their City image if things start to go bad in securities markets.

It is just as well that domestic banking was a success because international banking remained the Achilles heel.

The banks are more cautious on international lending and have recently begun to withdraw their assets to the UK. They have also been adjusting their provisions for bad debt to take account of the situation. For example, National Westminster shifted £100 million of sovereign debt from general to specific reserves.

On the results of the last few days, clearing bank shares look absurdly underpriced relative to the market. No doubt they will stay that way at least until after the Budget on fears that the Chancellor will be unable to resist taxing such obviously profitable institutions. After that the market may conclude that the banks have faced some unpleasant truths and now have a better idea of where they are going. The evidence appears to be that profits begin at home.

Advertisement for Hoare Govett Dealercall, a service for buying and selling shares or unit trusts. Includes phone number 01-242 3696 and a coupon for requesting more information.

Fears of financial services tax

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

In banking parlours, insurance offices and other financial intermediaries, there is a nagging fear. Is the Chancellor straggled for Budget cash because of tumbling oil prices...

There are, however, good reasons for thinking that, if a new tax is introduced, it will not be in this form. In 1981 it could be argued that the banks had benefited at the expense of other sectors, notably manufacturing, from the Government's high interest rate strategy.

Although rates of interest have been high since the January 1985 sterling crisis, and real rates even higher than in 1981, it is more difficult to make the case that the banks have benefited while other sectors have suffered. In addition, in 1981, ministers, including the present Chancellor, committed themselves to not reintroducing such a tax.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said in the Commons in July 1981: "This is a once-for-all tax. As such it follows that it will not be repeated." The second reason for the unusually strong rumours of a financial services tax in this year's pre-Budget period is that it is widely felt that the Chancellor has to cut or abolish stamp duty on share purchases in the Budget.

Then, because of the assumed absence of a net give-away this year, it is argued that Mr Lawson has to be neutral within sectors, so taking away from the financial sector in the form of a new tax what he is giving in lowering stamp duty.

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - The stock market decline gained momentum Wednesday afternoon, with weakness in IBM shares depressing the entire technology sector and bonds adding to earlier losses, according to traders.

But the trend took a reverse turn towards the close with a bond market recovery which triggered a final-hour buying spree. IBM cut its earlier loss to 1/4% and closed at 148 1/4. Burroughs finished 1/4% down to close at 65 1/4.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which was around 1,680 at mid-session, closed at 1,686.90, up 0.48. The American Stock Exchange prices closed higher at a new record in active trading.

The Amex market value index climbed 1.44 to the best ever close of 253.16, topping last Friday's record of 257.35.

Table with columns: AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc. and rows for various companies and their stock prices.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES. Table with columns: Market rates, March 5, 1 month, 3 months.

Other foreign exchange rates including Dollar Spot Rates, Euro Money Deposits, and Gold.

The dollar gained good Wednesday as the market moved selling pressure against the dollar though it declined later to close with a small fall at 1.4540 (L.4615).

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE. Table with columns: Soybean meal, coffee, wheat, etc.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES. Table with columns: Cattle, sheep, pigs, etc.

LONDON METALS FUTURES. Table with columns: Copper, tin, lead, zinc, etc.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table with columns: Base Rate %, Discount Bank 12%, Treasury Bills, etc.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table with columns: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, etc.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table with columns: Dollar, 7 days, 1 month, 3 months.

GOLD

Table with columns: Gold \$341.25/347.50, Gold \$345.00/347.00.

ECGD

Table with columns: Fixed Rate Starting Export Finance, 1 month, 3 months, 6 months.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Three Month Sterling, Six Month Sterling, etc.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table with columns: High Low Company, Price, Change, etc.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: Anglo & Eastern, Anglo & Pacific, etc.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table with columns: ABSEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, ABSEY UNIT TRUST, etc.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table with columns: ABSEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, ABSEY UNIT TRUST, etc.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table containing detailed information about various unit trusts, including names, managers, and performance metrics.

Handwritten notes and signatures on the right margin, including 'John Lew' and 'GUESS W'.

TEMPUS

Abdullahs leave their options open at TI

The Abdullah brothers spotted a real winner when they bought a stake in the TI conglomerate as its shares have since bounded ahead, rising a further 14p yesterday to 471p.

fitting from strong aerospace demand. All these factors together suggest profits of £48 million are possible this year, leaving the shares trading on a multiple of less than 10.

Cadbury Schweppes

The debilitating effect of ill-conceived attempts to diversify are clearly demonstrated at Cadbury Schweppes where the company has been weakened to such an extent that the trading profit fell by £28.8 million, excluding exchange rate fluctuations, to £113 million for the year to December 1985.

To be profitable in consumer products you need to have strong brands and promote them single-mindedly. A dismal performance was expected from North America and it duly emerged. The trading loss of £5.6 million was due in part to poor confectionery demand but was exaggerated by the lack of a clear brand strategy and a weak management structure.

The 1985 loss highlights a big effort to slim and reorganize the business. But there are still problems in the US. Not only has Duffy-Mott proved to be a poor acquisition, but the scale of the whole operation is too small and its brands too weak to find niches in the market rather than battle against Hershey and Mars.

Future strategy in all markets world-wide will concentrate on building on the areas where Cadbury is strong - confectionery and soft drinks. In confectionery, expansion must come from overseas markets as the British consumer is relatively mature.

John Lewis Partnership, the staff-controlled department stores and supermarket group, is to distribute a record £30.6 million in annual bonuses to its 28,000 worker-partners.

It is one of the biggest percentage payouts by the

per share may not rise to their 1984 level until 1987. At the current price of 170p there is some bid premium. On a prospective rating of 13.5, there is little room for error.

Johnson Matthey

Investors are so impressed that Johnson Matthey has survived the near failure of its banking subsidiary and the row that followed, that they have tended to look back to this achievement rather than forward. Yesterday's figures should concentrate their minds.

Even though profits for the nine months to December were up from £12.8 million to £17.8 million before tax, almost all that increase reflected lower interest costs. Profits from trading actually fell from £30.5 million to £27.5 million.

This trend is worrying but the company claims the shortfall arose solely from exchange rate movements.

Where the company has been more successful is in reducing borrowings. At the end of December they stood at £137 million, some £147 million below the peak of last year. Off balance sheet borrowings relating to metal stocks have also been reduced sharply but the company says more reductions in stocks and disposals are unlikely to have a significant impact so further improvements are likely to be limited.

With interest charges unlikely to drop so dramatically next year, attention will focus on the trading performance. In this respect, the near doubling in the price of platinum over the past 12 months will be crucial because high prices tend to boost platinum refining. And there is continuing growth in demand for antocatalysts.

Meanwhile, the third quarter should see some continued progress, taking the total for the year to possibly £30 million. On that basis, the shares are trading on 11 times earnings at 171p, down 2p but they have hardly faltered since the turning point at 63p a year ago. Complete recovery to 240p, where the shares stood 18 months ago before the crisis, depends largely on a sustained increase in the platinum price.

COMPANY NEWS

BANRO INDUSTRIES: After the announcement by CH Industrials last week that it had disposed of its holding of 1.73 million ordinary shares in Banro, the board of Banro reports that all these shares would have been placed with several institutional investors who are expected to retain their holdings as a long-term investment.

WPP GROUP: The company has agreed, subject to shareholders' approval, to acquire P and L International Vacations, through its subsidiary, Rasor. P & L is a destination consultant. Its turnover for the year ending March 1985, was £1.75 million. On completion, WPP will pay about £380,000, to be satisfied by the issue of shares. A further payment in shares, of about £280,000 will be made following the publication of P & L's accounts for the ending March 1986. For every £1 that pretax profits exceed £150,000, £4 in shares will be added to this payment up to a maximum of £24,000 and for every £1 of shortfall below £150,000, £4 will be deducted.

DEREK CROUCH: Final dividend 4.13p, making 5.93p (5.99p), turnover £65.45 million (£65.45 million). Pretax profit £3.12 million (£1.75 million). Earnings per share 20.3p (14.5p). The board reports that the British mining operations performed well in spite of the end of summer strike for some time. The end of the miners' strike and the lifting of contractual tonnage restrictions in some areas assisted performance.

A GOLDBERG: The company has conditionally agreed to buy Mona Lewis for about £1.2 million. Immediately before the takeover, Mona Lewis will dispose of all fixed assets which will be surplus to its requirements as a part of the Goldberg group. Accordingly, £200,000 of the net assets to be acquired are expected to be in cash. Mona Lewis is one of the principal young fashion retailers in central London with 21 shops trading as Vixie. Audited accounts for the nine months to January 31 showed a turnover of £3.9 million and pretax trading profits of £60,000.

SOMPORTEX HOLDINGS: The company is reporting for the eight months to Dec. 31, 1985, compared with the previous year. The directors expect the company to trade profitably in 1986 and consideration will be given to a resumption of dividends. Turnover £2.91 million (£4.55 million). Pretax loss £118.425 (£276.149). The year-end has been changed from April 30 to Dec. 31 to remove seasonal distortions following the sale of the candy division. Currently, net cash and short-term investments were £622,000.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares pause for breath as investors take profits

Stock markets paused for breath after the 200-point surge over the past six weeks in the FT 30-share index to new peaks above 1,300.

After establishing a new high in the opening minutes, share prices turned easier on light profit-taking yesterday, with the FT 30 index closing at 1,299.4, down 1.9.

Many shares had picked up again well before the close, however, and the tone remained very firm.

Optimism on Mexico debt talks

From Bailey Morris Washington. Senator Silva Herzog, the Mexican finance minister, returned to Washington yesterday for talks amid growing optimism that Mexico's problems can be resolved without a tense confrontation with debtors.

Treasury officials said the Mexican government appeared at last to be getting down to hard bargaining after demanding unacceptable interest rate concessions and billions of dollars in additional loans.

There are also indications that the World Bank, which is considering up to £1 billion as large new central loans for the Mexican economy, is close to approving them, a British official said.

The negotiations which began yesterday will set important precedents for other debtor nations in Latin America and elsewhere which have been hit hard by plummeting oil prices.

German discount rate from 4 per cent to 3 1/2 per cent. But, by the close, most loans were no more than 1/4 to 1/2 higher on balance.

Falls predominated among leading industrials, though most were confined to between 2p and 5p.

Grand Metropolitan provided a dull spot, down 9p to 411p after an uninspiring statement at the annual meeting.

Glits also came back from the best. Gains stretched to around a point at one time following the cut in the West

er at 688p, in generally mixed industrials.

TI remained in demand, the shares rising 14p to 471p in celebration of the 61 per cent growth in profits. Cadbury Schweppes added 4p to 170p as the 25 per cent decline in earnings proved less than feared.

Corab managed a penny improvement at 59 1/2p after slipping to 54 1/2p in first reaction to disappointing figures. Profits news put 12p on Williams Holdings at 540p, but lopped 7p off Mitchell Cotts at 70p, and 20p off Lex Service at 320p.

Profit-taking lowered BSR 10p to 105p after yesterday's figures. Harris Queensway jumped 16p to 252p on talk of a bid from Tesco, 6p down at 335p.

Office and Electronic rose 8p to 218p as Hillsdown (8p up at 233p) took its stake to 14 per cent. Wolsley Hughes continued to look to likely benefits from the Grovedown purchase, gaining 14p to 550p.

Barclays Bank shed 7p to 49 1/2p after results at the lower end of the scale of expectations. Standard Chartered met speculative support, advancing 2 1/2p to 522p.

Foreign investment hits record £22bn

Britain had a current account surplus of £2.95 billion last year, in line with the Treasury's forecast of £3 billion but £600 million lower than provisional estimates. Private investment overseas rose by 45 per cent to a new record level of £22.25 billion. This was mainly due to a sharp rise in purchases of foreign securities by British financial institutions.

Overseas investment in Britain rose by 108 per cent but, at £7.48 billion, was dwarfed by investment flows abroad.

The current account surplus was reduced by an estimated £1.25 billion last year by the effects of the miners' strike. In 1984, the strike reduced the surplus by an estimated £2.75 billion to £879 million.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for EQUITIES, SPP (25p), RIGHTS ISSUES, and various stock prices.

John Lewis bonus record

John Lewis Partnership, the staff-controlled department stores and supermarket group, is to distribute a record £30.6 million in annual bonuses to its 28,000 worker-partners.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table listing various financial institutions and their base lending rates, such as ABN at 12 1/2%, Adams & Company at 12%, etc.

BARCLAYS 1985

The Chairman, Sir Timothy Bevan, said today: I am very pleased to report record pre-tax profits of £85.4m - £231m higher than in 1984. Combined with our 1985 rights issue, these profits reinforce the capital base we need to meet the increasingly vigorous competition in financial services both in the UK and in the international markets.

Table showing Consolidated Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31st December 1985, with columns for 1985 and 1984 in £m.

Advertisement for Marks & Spencer's Peterborough Effect, featuring a cartoon character and a coupon to request a free guide to re-location.

BARCLAYS logo and address: 54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC3P 3AH

Hanson's US profits. Hanson's lawyers re-open the case.

FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE

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E 12640

WASHINGTON



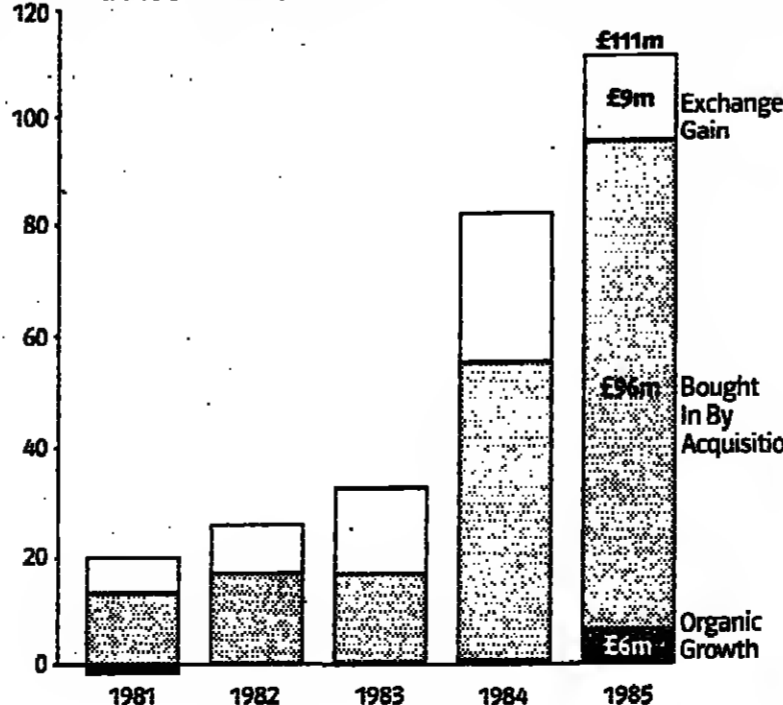
Hanson Industries, the US arm of Hanson Trust, is responsible for about half Hanson's total operating profit - so in our letter to shareholders of 13.2.86 we took a cool look at its performance.

Hanson's solicitors responded by challenging some of our figures - though not our central point.

Nonetheless, we cheerfully re-ran our analysis - with the following result:

Total:	£m
Less bought-in profit:	111
Less exchange rate gains:	96
Leaving organic growth:	9
	6

HANSON'S US OPERATING PROFIT GROWTH, 1980-1985



This is precisely the calculation used in our letter to shareholders and confirms our central point: Hanson's US performance depends overwhelmingly on profits bought in by acquisition; and Hanson Industries' organic growth has fallen far short of US inflation over the period.

We rest our case.



The sources for the information contained in this advertisement are the letters from the Chairman, Imperial Group plc to shareholders dated 13th February and 6th March 1986. The directors of Imperial Group plc (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed are fair and accurate. The directors accept responsibility accordingly.

Handwritten note: "The Times is here"

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes sections for BUILDINGS AND ROADS, BREWERIES, FOODS, and BRITISH FUNDS.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield.

UNDATED table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes sections for BUILDINGS AND ROADS and BREWERIES.

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Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes sections for DRAPERY AND STORES and ELECTRICALS.

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes sections for DRAPERY AND STORES and ELECTRICALS.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares falter

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Feb 24. Dealings end March 10. Settlement day March 10. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes sections for FINANCE AND LAND and FOODS.

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THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £6,000 Claims required for +39 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Table with columns: No., High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, Dividend, Yield. Includes sections for OVERSEAS TRADERS and PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G.

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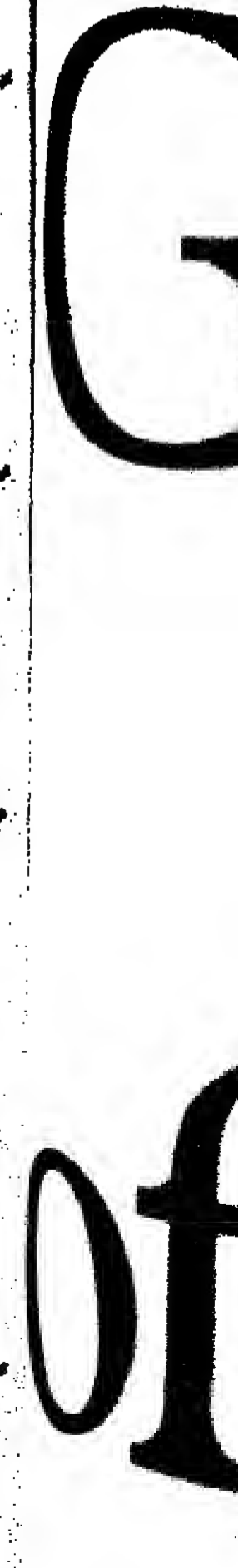
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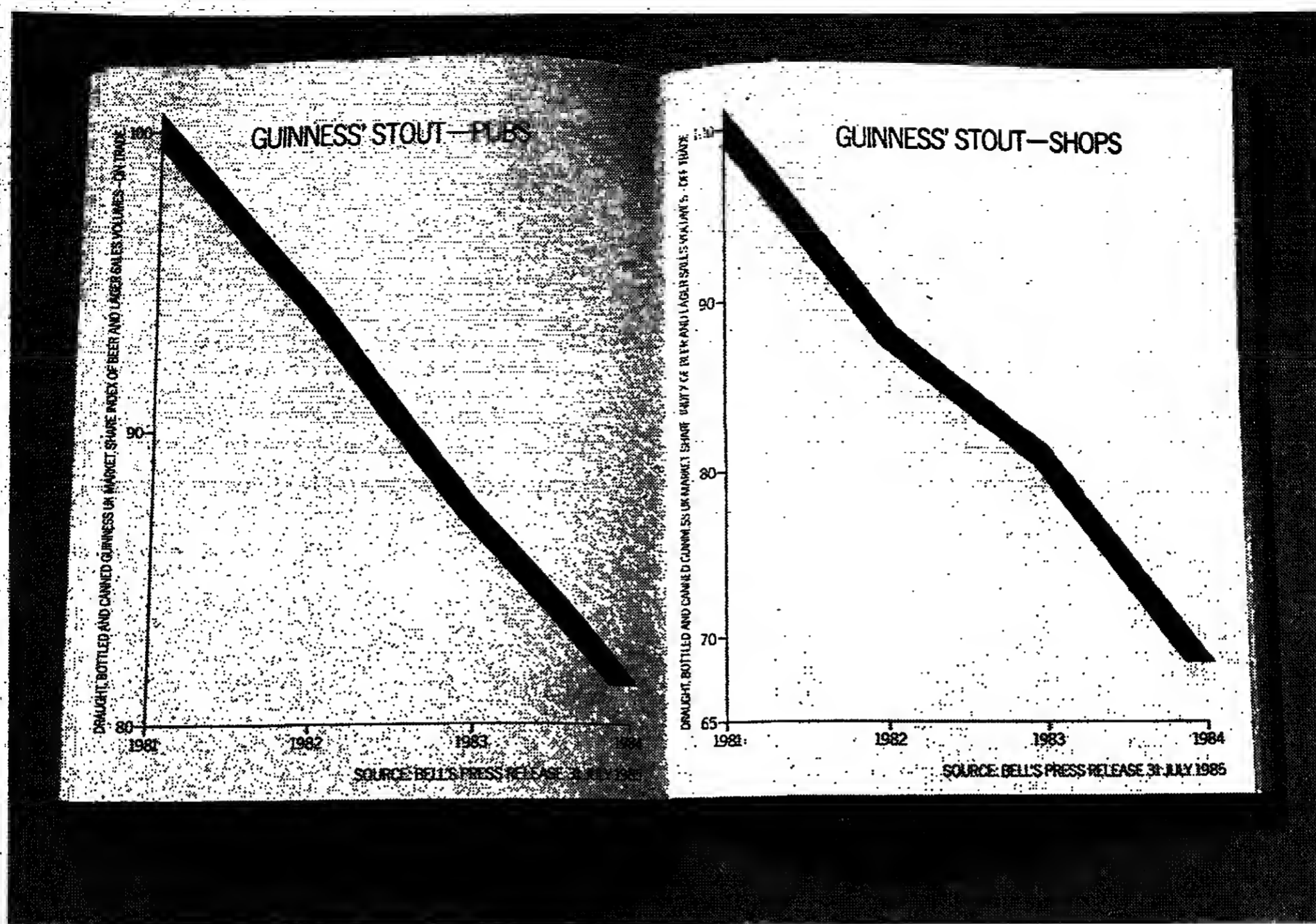
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THE DIRECTORS OF ARGYLL GROUP PLC ARE THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF HAVING TAKEN ALL REASONABLE CARE TO ENSURE THAT SUCH IS THE CASE. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FACTS. THE DIRECTORS OF ARGYLL GROUP PLC ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDINGLY.



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When you're the fastest micro around - People talk!

“Not only does this machine leave the AT for dead in terms of performance, it also undercuts it by up to a staggering £1600 without even taking into account bundled software. The XEN offers incredible value for money, particularly considering its speed. Its response to commands is almost instantaneous and loading software seems to take a fraction of the time taken by more mundane micros.” *What Micro? - December 1985*

“As the benchmarks show, in terms of processing power and disk accessing, the XEN is a superb piece of engineering which can outrun most things on the market. For computationally intensive applications it looks to be a very good buy.” *Practical Computing - January 1986*

“The Apricot XEN is a pleasure to use. It's fast and effective - showing off both the 80286 built-in processor and Windows software to their best advantage... This is the best machine the company has ever produced.” *Which Computer? - January 1986*

“It was the speed of the system which impressed me the most... you can forget just how much work the machine is really having to do.” *PCW - January 1986*

There's a lot of talk about the new Apricot XEN. Experts, normally restrained in their praise, are becoming unusually enthusiastic.

Phrases like "in a league of its own" and "incredible value for money" are being used. So why is Apricot XEN so special?

Because of its astonishing performance, for one thing, Apricot XEN has come out on top in every test so far. In an article measuring computer power, the Guardian decided that something called "processor memory bandwidth" was the most accurate yardstick. Naturally, Apricot XEN achieved the highest score, even beating one of the leading minicomputer systems to the mark.

And when you look at XEN's storage capabilities, it's clear that they are just as impressive as its processing power.

XEN's disk drives have broken all the benchmark records too. So whether it's the XEN FD with twin 720K floppy drives, or the XEN HD with a 20 Megabyte hard disk, a XEN won't keep you waiting.

And if, as the gentleman of the press say, the XEN floppy disks are faster than the IBM hard disk, just imagine what our hard disks can do.

But what has really caught the imagination of the computer industry is how little this powerful machine costs.

With multi-tasking Microsoft Windows as standard, a twin floppy disk XEN FD with 512K of RAM and a monitor can cost as little as £2494, while the XEN HD with a 720K floppy drive, 20 Megabyte hard disk and a full 1 Megabyte of RAM is an astonishing £3494.

When Apricot offers this kind of value, the competition will have to take a long look at their own prices - if they expect you even to glance at them.

Choosing even the basic XEN configuration can mark the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership.

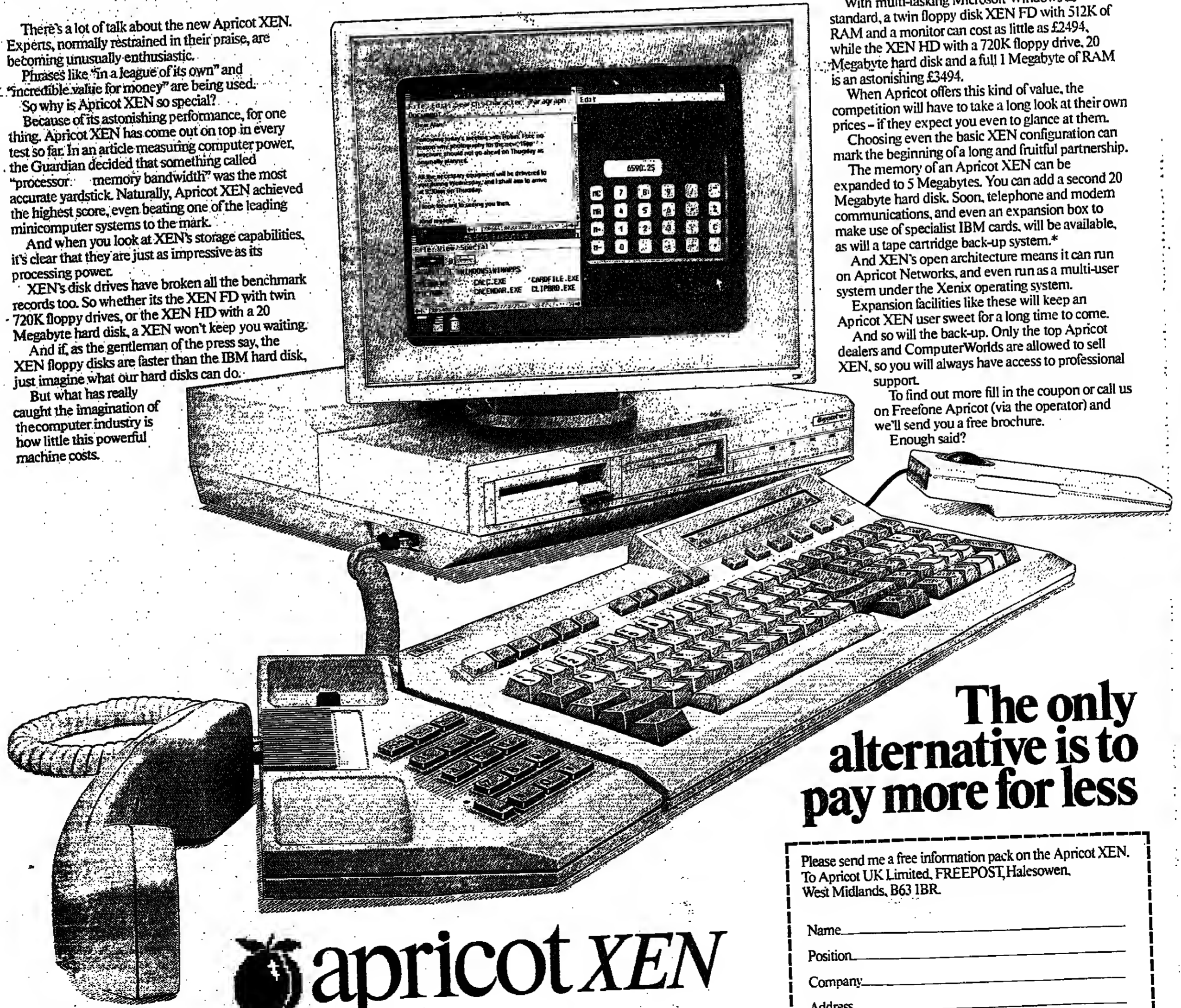
The memory of an Apricot XEN can be expanded to 5 Megabytes. You can add a second 20 Megabyte hard disk. Soon, telephone and modem communications, and even an expansion box to make use of specialist IBM cards, will be available, as will a tape cartridge back-up system.*

And XEN's open architecture means it can run on Apricot Networks, and even run as a multi-user system under the Xenix operating system.

Expansion facilities like these will keep an Apricot XEN user sweet for a long time to come.

And so will the back-up. Only the top Apricot dealers and ComputerWorlds are allowed to sell XEN, so you will always have access to professional support.

To find out more fill in the coupon or call us on Freefone Apricot (via the operator) and we'll send you a free brochure. Enough said?



The only alternative is to pay more for less

Please send me a free information pack on the Apricot XEN. To Apricot UK Limited, FREEPOST, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 1BR.

Name _____
 Position _____
 Company _____
 Address _____
 Tel: _____

apricot XEN

*The IBM expansion box and telephone available Spring 1986. All prices ex-VAT.

At time for flowers. Interflora More than words can say.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM. Births: BRITAIN, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM.

DEATHS. Aunt. Funeral Herford Church 3.15pm. 10th March. Family flowers only.

DEATHS. BATTLEWORTH On March 2nd Anne nee Kent and son Robert. CARTER On Tuesday 4th March.

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